

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, January 16, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Considering mission service?

By Maxine Stewart

When couples are considering answering the call to foreign missionary service, many thoughts race through their minds. While they are discussing some of the aspects of "life in a foreign country," thoughts such as "the kids are so caught up in baseball I don't see how we can deprive them of the pleasure and opportunity to learn what being on a 'team' is like."

The loud ticking of the clock indicates it is almost time to take Susie for her piano lesson, which prompts another thought. "What will we do about Susie's music lessons?"

"What about schooling for the kids?" On and on the thoughts crop up.

Many people are not aware that in most foreign countries there are many Americans (and other nationalities) living and working there for various companies and missions. Take Bangkok, Thailand, for example. There is large foreign community in the capital city.

Although the Thai people do not play baseball, there is a well organized Bangkok Baseball Association in the foreign community. Over 400 kids are involved in teams such as the Red Sox, the White Sox, the Cardinals, the Mets, the Giants, all the way from tee ball through the senior league. There are several teams in each league. Competition is great!



Some of the MKs among 28 students who participated in a piano recital in Bangkok, Thailand, at Calvary Baptist Church, under direction of piano instructor Sandra Sumpantar, an American married to a Thai Christian. Standing are Chris Kinnison (left) and Jonathan Newton. Seated at the piano are Laura Kinnison and her piano student, Laurinda Campbell. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)



Boys and girls get instructions from Chris Bando, catcher for the Cleveland Indians who went to a baseball clinic in Bangkok with Tom Roy. Bando spoke during prayer meeting at Calvary Baptist Church, Bangkok. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

Soccer is another sport in Thailand that many MKs enjoy. Soccer teams accommodate all age levels.

As for music lessons, in Bangkok there are many piano teachers available for MKs who want to start or continue lessons. Not only are piano teachers available, but there are those who are available to teach other instruments. Several Baptist MKs in Thailand have had good experiences playing in the school band. We have, or have had, MKs who play trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, drums, guitar (electric and bass), piano, trombone, and violin. We also have some MKs taking ballet. Even parents living outside Bangkok have made arrangements for music lessons.

As for schooling, in the Thailand Baptist Mission there are several options. In addition to home schooling, there is an international school available. There is also a small Christian school that has mothers of some of the students doing the teaching — grades 1-8. Some Baptist MKs are attending this school.

"What if we end up living 100 miles or so from the capital city after language study? What would I do about the children's schooling?" For grades 1-8 (in the Thai Mission), several mothers have taught their children at home. Some do now. The mission provides a course of home schooling for them. The teacher's manual is so well planned that even if the mother is not trained as a teacher, she is able to follow the instructions in the teacher's manual and direct her children in an effective learning program. Missionary Jennie Garcia (who lives out of Bangkok) is the coordinator for home schooling. There are helps available that have



MK (missionary kid) Laura Kinnison (left) has been taking violin lessons for several years in Thailand. She is now branching out and is teaching beginner violin lessons to another MK, Rachel Newton in Bangkok. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

been put together by some of the mothers who have been doing home schooling. There are also excellent public libraries (English).

Calvary Baptist Church (English-speaking) has a good youth program which the MKs and other young people enjoy.

MKs usually find plenty of interesting things to participate in to make them well rounded kids, making the adjustment to a new country enjoyable, both for them and for their parents.

Stewart is missionary press representative, Thailand.

## Tae kwon do instructor fights to show he cares

By Breena Kent Paine

NEW ORLEANS — Paul Gregoire is a Southern Baptist pastor with an unusual ministry — he teaches seminarians how to "fight."

As a tae kwon do instructor for New Orleans Seminary's recreation center, Gregoire sees the sport more as a form of recreation and self-discipline than as a set of defensive and offensive maneuvers.

"In the 21 years I've trained, I've never used it on the street," said Gregoire, a New Orleans native who was working toward achieving a third-degree black belt by the end of 1991. He has, however, used tae kwon do as a Christian witness.

His students are seminary administrators, professors, students, their wives, and their children; and in tournaments with those from other walks of life, they make a difference.

"There are always comments like 'You can tell Paul's students; there's just something different about them,'" said Gregoire, who feels the seminarians' Christian attitudes in the competitive atmosphere make a positive reflection of Christ's love to many who may not otherwise think about God.

But Gregoire feels his main ministry — where he has made the most difference — has been in the lives of the children he teaches.

"Several times here on campus, parents have come up to me and said, 'You don't know what a difference you've made in my child's life,'" Gregoire explained.

"I've seen how the children have grown in confidence, self-esteem, and over-all maturing," he continued. "I've seen kids walk in here who would trip over the lines in the gym, and in three years they have a black belt."

"As they feel better about themselves, they can have a better idea of what Christ can do for them. Philippians 4:13 is our motto, even in tae kwon do class."

"I consider myself not only a tae kwon do teacher, but also a counselor for those teenagers who have been relocated; some of them think they are dislocated," said Gregoire, who is pursuing a doctorate in counseling at the seminary.

"I've seen some of these students exhibit real frustration and anxiety," he continued. "By getting a hard workout (in class), they can get their frustrations out."

In addition, Gregoire offers his help to those whose fathers are in school during the day and working at night.

Sometimes his students will even call him at home, wanting to talk or ask his advice.

Gregoire first became interested in tae kwon do at age 19, when he won three months of free lessons. "Being small, 125 pounds, it was a sport I could get into that didn't matter how small or how large or how tall you are, so I liked it," he said.

Gregoire was strongly opposed to his Oriental instructor's teaching of the *khee*, the "inner force" one draws upon to perform such acts as splitting an apple on a man's throat with a Samurai sword while blindfolded or breaking cement blocks on a man's chest with a sledgehammer while he is lying on a bed of nails. So he has disregarded such teaching, and like many other tae kwon do schools in the United States today, does not incorporate it into his instruction.

"My instructor never could understand why I went to church," Gregoire said. "Then one day, while he was shooting pool in a bar, someone drove by and shot him, and he died. So all his philosophy was in vain."

A 1973 Colorado state tae kwon do champion who ranked fifth in the nation in the light-weight division, Gregoire also teaches classes off campus. There, many of his students come from single-parent families, and he has been able to be a positive male role model for them. As a result of his influence, many of his students have begun attending church and become more involved in Christian activities.

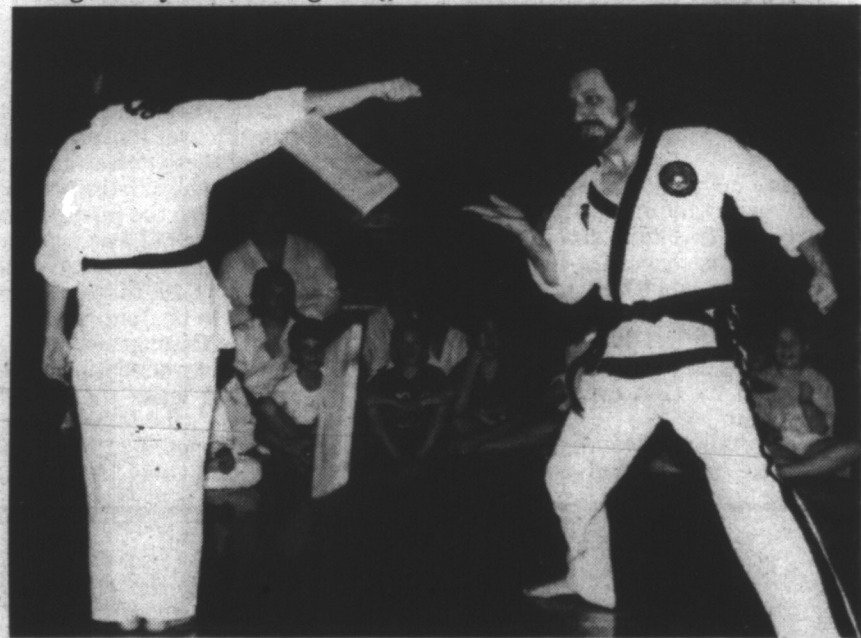
Gregoire's wife, Mae, also has a black belt. Together, they have performed demonstrations at day camps and youth camps, both Christian and non-Christian, and Gregoire has taken the opportunity to share the gospel as pastor of St. Bernard Baptist Church in Chalmette, La.

"There's probably a respect beyond the belt for the calling I have," Gregoire explained. "We open every one of our rank tests with a prayer and close with a prayer."

Some of his Christian students have gone on to begin tae kwon do classes of their own in other cities, using it as a ministry just as their instructor has.

"But probably the reason why I've been doing this as long as I have is because of the changes I have seen in the kids; to see their maturity, self-confidence, and hope is better than any plaque or trophy I could ever get."

Paine is PR writer, NOBTS.



Paul Gregoire demonstrates a board-breaking technique to his tae kwon do students at New Orleans Seminary. He feels teaching the sport is a ministry because it gives him an opportunity to help people, especially teenagers, feel better about themselves, and thus recognize their full potential in Christ. (NOBTS photo by Kevin Devine)

## "Mormonism" ministry moves to HMB

MARLOW, Okla. (BP) — Out of self defense, John L. Smith began a study of Mormonism that changed the direction of his life and ministry.

Forty years ago the Oklahoma native moved to Clearfield, Utah, to become pastor of a new Southern Baptist church and found himself in the midst of a Mormon stronghold.

As Mormon missionaries tried to convert him to their faith, Smith started an intensive study of Mormon

beliefs that prompted him to dedicate the rest of his career to exposing the theology of the cult.

Last year as he faced plans for retirement, Smith transferred his ministry to the Home Mission Board, trusting it to continue his career objective.

One of Smith's first attempts to reveal beliefs of Mormonism was in 1954 when he and his late wife, Inez, began publishing a newspaper with a

mimeograph machine from the basement of their home. The *Evangel* is now printed nine times a year with a circulation of 33,000 to all 50 states and 60 countries.

Informing people about Mormonism is Utah Missions' main objective, Smith said. Mormons gain 300,000 converts a year, but Smith is convinced that people who know what Mormons believe are not likely to join the cult.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Gospel by example

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one."

"One ounce of 'show me' outweighs a ton of 'tell me.'"

"A picture is worth 10,000 words."

These proverbs, and a hundred more, have been heard, and indeed how pleasant it is to see Christian love in action. Yea, holiness is but another name for obedience. There is something about a good example that will linger like the fragrance of a rose. "Example," said Schweitzer, "is not the main thing in life — it is the only thing."

"I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see."

I sought my God, but my God eluded me.

I sought my brother, and I found all three."

There is that touchable moment, but for a second, then it's gone. Zachaeus will not always be up the sycamore tree; the outcast woman

will not tarry long at the well. Like the man said, "Tithing is so much easier than loving your neighbor."

The real "service" does not always have to be a trip to Africa; it can be a trip to teach a neighborhood VBS. It can be as simple as holding the hand of an elderly person in the nursing home, or hugging a frightened child. The "cup of water" ministry is not a boastful task. Mother Teresa of Calcutta has inspired millions with so little. Henry Stanley declared he became a Christian by daily being at the side of David Livingstone in Africa. Many, by observation, have been attracted to the Galilean.

While the example is most needed and helpful, the majority must be confronted with the gospel. A kind, warm, fuzzy feeling is not salvation. Deep appreciation for the service of dedicated people will not deliver one from the bondage of sin. A "leaning" toward Christianity, "If I were anything, I'd be a Christian," attitude will not save

a person. Unless confronted with a clear explanation, the decision can be muddled and unsure.

Confrontation is scriptural. Talk to Nicodemus, the rich young ruler, or the thief on the cross. Confrontation is necessary for many: "How shall they hear without a preacher (or herald)?" There are times when you have to use the tact of Nathan the prophet, "Thou art the man" (2 Sam. 12:7), he told David. Listen, I'm talking to you. "Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me O Lord."

We need the examples, the cup of water, the day by day testimony of a faithful life, for many will come to the Lord in this manner. We also need the verbal witness of clear gospel presentation. Across the SBC it's witness commitment time. Our goal, our desire, should be declared (Col. 1:28): "Him (Christ) we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Jesus Christ."

## Guest opinion . . .

## Life acknowledges life

By Elizabeth K. Holmes

During the Christmas season it is not uncommon for those of us who wholeheartedly embrace belief in the sacredness of life to turn our thoughts to the young, pregnant Mary, the mother-to-be of Jesus. Perhaps we think about the outcome of her pregnancy had abortion been legal in the society in which she lived — and the implications of that for all humanity. Or perhaps we think with pity of the shame, the humiliation, and the gossip she endured in a world where unwed pregnancy was cause for being stoned to death.

Throughout the Word of God we can find passage after passage that must bear witness in our hearts to the value God places on human life — all of human life — from the unborn child, to the mentally or physically impaired, to those who are infirm and aging. The continuing existence of a life God has created is not ours to discard by choice. Surely the Spirit of God indwelling his people will convict our hearts, if we allow him, of the sacredness of life and cause us to work to the end that all people would hold that same conviction.

There are a number of stories in the Bible that point out God's purpose and plan for each individual person even before birth. Jeremiah 1:5 indicates clearly that God knew Jeremiah even before he was conceived, and he consecrated him while he was still in his mother's womb. In Psalm 139:13-16 the psalmist testifies that God created him and that the days of his life were numbered by God even before his conception.

And certainly we know and believe that in Jesus, who had always been

with the Father, the eternal Word became flesh so that he could redeem mankind (John 1:14). But what about John, the one we call John the Baptist, son of Zacharias and Elizabeth?

In Luke 1 Zacharias is informed by the angel of the Lord that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son who is to be named John. The angel also said, "... and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb . . . and it is he who will go as a forerunner before him in the spirit and power of Elijah . . . so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:15, 17).

## Homes of Grace leases Jackson Ave. Building

First Church of Pascagoula began 11 mission churches in the late '40s and early '50s. These churches all have reversion clauses that state that any time one of them ceases to be a Southern Baptist church, the property and buildings are the property of First Baptist Church of Pascagoula.

On May 8, 1991, the Jackson Avenue Church voted to cease to exist, with the last service to be June 23, 1991.

First Church of Pascagoula, on Nov. 13, 1991, upon recommendation of the trustees, voted to lease the church to the Homes of Grace to be used as a shelter for "homeless families." This work will begin in early 1992.

Shortly after this event we know that Mary, having learned of her own conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit, went quickly to visit Elizabeth. Upon seeing Mary, Elizabeth's child leaped in her womb. John's purpose was to point people to Jesus — to prepare the people to receive him. Here, in the presence of the Lord for the first time, John acknowledges him. This child whom the angel had declared would be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in the womb had responded for the first time to the claim God had upon his life.

It is a beautiful story that is quite familiar, but let us examine it further in light of today's consideration of life. Those who favor abortion tell us that the unborn child is not really a child — a human life — but rather a mass of tissue or cells, a part of the mother's body to be removed much as a cancerous mass would be removed.

However, our examination of Scripture tells us that what is created by God and is developing in the womb is a separate, individual life for whom God has a purpose. In the case of John, God claimed his life and even indwelt him while still in the womb. How can it be that the Holy Spirit of God would indwell a mass of tissue? God's Spirit indwells people — not tissue. As we approach the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday emphasis on Jan. 19, perhaps a contemplation of the broader events surrounding the birth of Jesus will give us a fresh perspective on sacredness of life as presented in God's Word.

Holmes is consultant for family and women's issues, Christian Action Commission, MBC.

## America's changing face

Los Angeles contains more Koreans than any other city in the world except Seoul.

More Jewish people live in New York City than either Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

Besides Havana, Miami has the largest Cuban population of any city in the world.

The United States is the fourth largest Spanish-speaking country in the Western hemisphere, following Mexico, Argentina, and Colombia.

There are 636 languages and dialects spoken in the U.S.

80% of U.S. legal immigrants come from Latin America and Asia.

Afro-Americans comprise 12.1% of U.S. population.

Fully 56% of U.S. Asians live in the West, 18% in the Northwest, 14% in the South, and 12% in the Midwest; 93%

of Asians live in metropolitan areas.

Racial and ethnic minorities are growing more than seven times as fast as the non-Hispanic white majority in the U.S.

Economic factors, not race, are segregating more and more neighborhoods.

Three-fourths of American Hispanics live in just five states: California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois.

There are 5,000 Hispanic churches in the United States, one for every 5,000 individuals.

Police in Los Angeles have interpreters for 42 languages.

There are 200,000 Arabs living in Detroit, 400,000 Armenians in southern California, and 65,000 Hondurans in New Orleans.

— The Wesleyan Advocate

## Which direction?

Isaiah is our January Bible study and I've spent a number of hours walking through it. God confronts Judah and says:

The ox knows its owner  
And the donkey knows its master's crib;

But Israel does not know,  
My people do not consider.  
Alas, sinful nation,  
A people laden with iniquity,  
A brood of evildoers,  
Children who are corrupters!  
They have forsaken the Lord,  
They have provoked to anger

The Holy One of Israel,  
They have turned away backward (Is. 1:3-4 NKJ).

Today I glanced through an unusually gloomy copy of Newsweek magazine that introduced the edition by saying:

"Malaise: it has struck again. America is down in the dumps, suffering from a case of national anxiety triggered not so much by bad economic news as by uncertainty and lack of direction."

— GH

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## Two FMB administrators step down, protest "agenda"

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board's two top administrators for work in Europe have stepped down, saying they can no longer represent the agency because of what they term the trustees' "global agenda" to enforce theological orthodoxy overseas.

Isam Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, and G. Keith Parker, area director for Europe, announced their early retirements effective May 31 and July 1, respectively.

Ballenger, 56, and Parker, 55, said at a Jan. 7 news conference they have made no decisions about future plans, although they will weigh possible options.

FMB President R. Keith Parks praised the two veterans of foreign missions for their integrity and commitment to missions and said "losing



Ballenger



Parker

them, at this crucial time of opportunity... is an incalculable loss" to missions.

Ballenger said "the events of October and December 1991, brought clearly into focus the chasm between the trustees and me." He referred to votes Oct. 9 and Dec. 11 by FMB trustees to defund \$365,000 promised to the 1992 budget of the Baptist

Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

Both men indicated later the Ruschlikon votes, which touched off widespread controversy in Europe and the United States, represented the "last straw" in their growing dissatisfaction with the trustees' philosophy of foreign missions.

However, both said they would not go so far as to discourage interested Southern Baptists from seeking missionary appointment. They suggested missionary candidates continue with the process until they see they cannot do so.

But they made their own disagreements with trustees clear, while noting appreciation for some trustees' approach to missions.

"With the (majority of) trustees... the situation has changed. (See **ADMINISTRATORS** on page 4)

## December gifts total \$1,720,505

Mississippi Baptists gave a total of \$1,720,505 through the Cooperative Program in December, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which forwards the funds to convention causes.

The 1991 total giving from the nearly 2,000 participating churches was \$20,473,494. This amount is \$467,468 under the 1991 budget of \$20,949,962, but \$387,658 more than the receipts for 1990.

However, says Causey, "we did not this past year, nor will we any year,

spend more than the actual dollar receipts."

Causey notes that all the money received in 1991 "was channeled to those objects expressly spelled out in the budget" which was developed by the convention board members elected by the associations and which was approved by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"In light of recent reports we hear from other states about declining offerings," says Causey, "we are regularly monitoring our situation and controls are in place to make cer-

tain that actual dollars received are not overspent."

The 1992 Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Program budget is \$21,588,435. Of this amount, a total of \$7,987,721, or 37% of the budget, goes to out of state Southern Baptist causes.

That amount, along with gifts from 37 other state conventions, adds up to a Cooperative Program budget of \$140 million.

The average Mississippi Baptist church gives 9.5% to the Cooperative Program.

## Jackson County Baptists dedicate welcome center for truck drivers

By Anne W. McWilliams

"Are you going to have a chain of these all over the country?" one trucker asked. "I've traveled all over the United States and I've never seen another like it," another trucker said.

Jackson County Baptists dedicated their new Truckers and Travelers Welcome Center on Jan. 5. Since the new building opened a month ago on Dec. 15, truckers have responded to its ministry with enthusiasm. Already one has returned to say he has received Christ as Savior.

It is located near JJ's Truck Stop at I-10's Exit 69 South, or 4825 Amoco Road, Moss Point. "We are open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.," said Bob Storie, director of ministries for Jackson County Association. Sunday mornings, short worship periods are alternated with Bible study from 6 to 9 on the hour. Daily devotionals are presented early morning, midday,

and evening, with music at 3 and 6 p.m. Five or six truckers daily have visited thus far.

Complimentary refreshments and coffee are available to the truckers, plus road maps, games, television, and grooming supplies. Also truckers are furnished with a place to use the washer and dryer, take a shower, use a pay telephone or copier, get counseling, or find a quiet place to rest.

The building, mostly the work of volunteers from various churches, was actually begun in the fall of 1989. Planning began even before then, under leadership of Allen Webb, when he was director of missions. Furniture and equipment have been donated by churches and individuals. At present Bob Storie is at the building daily. **However, he hopes to staff the place with volunteers, and**

**needs them not only from Jackson Association but from across the state.** The two bedrooms at the center were planned as a place for volunteers to stay. Also there is a kitchen, where they can prepare their own food. **For more information about signing up to volunteer, call the Jackson County Baptist Association at (601) 769-7101, or call Bob Storie at (601) 475-8999.**

To let truckers know about the ministry, doorknob hangers printed with pertinent details are hung on rearview mirrors at the truck stop every morning. Also Storie talks to truckers on CB; he plans to have a small station at the center. Too, truckers who are leaving for distant

(See **TRUCKERS** on page 4)

## Hiram and Shirley Powell to leave for Zimbabwe

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board, SBC, has assigned 58 people to work overseas through the International Service Corps. Seven are from Mississippi.

Included in 58 are 32 Southern Baptists who are attending an orientation Jan. 10-25 at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Ten workers, including three couples, have been assigned to work through Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Those with Mississippi connections Dwight Baker: He is a retired Southern Baptist missionary who worked in Israel, India, and the Philippines. Recently he was a Foreign Mission Board auxiliary personnel worker in Israel. Current address: 611 Oriole Blvd., #1304, Duncanville, Texas 75116. Education: Baylor University; Southwestern Seminary; Princeton Seminary, M.Th.; Hartford (Conn.) Seminary, Ph.D.; Church: Gaston Oaks, Dallas, Tex. Hometown: Bolivar, Mo. Assigned to administration work in Israel for one year. Married to a graduate of Blue Mountain College.

Emma (Mrs. Dwight) Baker: She is a retired Southern Baptist missionary who worked in Israel, India, and the Philippines. Recently she was a Foreign Mission Board auxiliary personnel worker in Israel. Current address: 611 Oriole Blvd., #1304, Duncanville, Texas 75116. Education: Mars Hill (N.C.) College; Blue Mountain (Miss.) College, B.A. '43; New Orleans Seminary, Th.D. '58. Church: First, Purvis. Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas. Assigned to church and home outreach evangelism in Israel for one year.

Walter Johnson: Most recently employed as a service technician with Sears Roebuck and Co., Gautier. Current address: 7408 T. C. Whittington Road, Pascagoula, Miss. 39581. Church: Temple, Pascagoula. Hometown: Pascagoula. Assigned to voca-

tional skills training in the Philippines for two years.

Deanie (Mrs. Walter) Johnson: Most recently was the owner of Deanie's Greenhouse, Pascagoula. Current address: 7408 T. C. Whittington Road, Pascagoula, Miss. 39581. Church: Temple, Pascagoula. Hometown: Pascagoula. Assigned to vocational skills training in the Philippines for two years.

Hiram Powell: Most recently was a Foreign Mission Board auxiliary personnel worker in Tanzania. Current address: Route 2, Box 222B, Mendenhall, Miss. 39114. Education: U.S. Army Finance School, financial management comptrollership. Church: Parkway, Jackson. Assigned to administration in Zimbabwe for two years.

Shirley (Mrs. Hiram) Powell: Most recently was a Foreign Mission Board missionary associate in Jordan. Current address: Route 2, Box 222B, Mendenhall, Miss. 39114. Education: University of California, Sonoma, B.S.; Mississippi College, M.A.; Jackson (Miss.) State University, D.Ed. Church: Parkway, Jackson. Assigned to administration in Zimbabwe for two years. The Powells plan to leave for Zimbabwe Jan. 20.

Charles Ray: He is a retired Southern Baptist missionary who worked in Japan and Thailand. Current address: P. O. Box 332, Purvis, Miss. 39475. Education: Mississippi College, B.A. '48, M.A. '77; New Orleans Seminary, Th.D. '58. Church: First, Purvis. Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas. Assigned to Cooperative Services International as a teacher in Asia for 18 months.

Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles) Ray: She is a retired Southern Baptist missionary who worked in Japan and Thailand. Current address: P. O. Box 332, Purvis, Miss. 39475. Education: Mississippi College. Church: First, Purvis. Assigned to Cooperative Services International as a teacher in Asia for 18 months.

## Fellowship calls Cecil Sherman

DALLAS (BP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's coordinating council voted unanimously Jan. 9 in Dallas to call Cecil E. Sherman, pastor of Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas, as the first full-time coordinator of the Atlanta-based moderate group.

The 82-member council approved a salary and benefits package not to ex-

ceed \$100,000 for the coordinator's post.

The new coordinator will have an office in Atlanta, where the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was formed last year in response to a "takeover" of Southern Baptist Convention agencies by conservatives.

Sherman, 64, came to Broadway in 1984 after 20 years as pastor of First Church in Asheville, N.C.



Jackson County Baptists on Jan. 5 dedicated a new Truckers and Travelers Welcome Center near JJ's Truck Stop at the intersection of Miss. 63 and I-10. The building, white with a blue roof, was constructed largely by volunteers.





**RELAXING** — Truckers and Travelers Welcome Center volunteers Eric Olsen a member at Parkway Church, and Bobby Waltman, a member of Wade Church, take a little time out to watch a television program. The center is equipped with

a television and a VCR, and provides informal Sunday services, free counseling/referrals and a place where a traveler can wait during emergency vehicle repair. (Photo by Debbie Wood)

## TRUCKERS

From page 3

destinations are given calendars advertising the ministry and asked to drop them off at stops along the way.

A family of 10 Romanians spent Christmas Day at the center. From Cincinnati, where the father is in the scrap metal business, they were travelling and asked to use the kitchen to prepare a meal. Storie said, "We held a special Christmas service with them and helped make the day special for them."

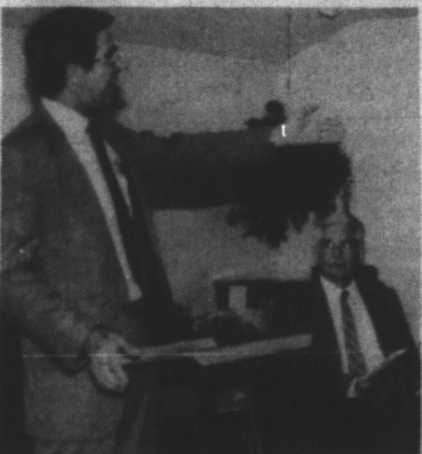
"Also we minister to hoboes and hitchhikers who stop by," said Storie. They have given them food and a place to wash their clothes.

During the Sunday afternoon dedication service, Ernest K. Sadler, current director of missions, introduced the Building Committee members: Ray Prescott, First Church, Moss Point; Frank Odom, Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula; J. D. Cutrer, First Church, Pascagoula; Milton Risner, Escatawpa Church; and Kenny Goff, Four Mile Creek Church. A taped message from Allen Webb was presented, as illness prevented Webb's attendance.

J. Ray Grissett, director, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, delivered the dedication address.

"We owe a lot to truckers," he pointed out. "They bring us food and clothes and other products from across the country. They have a heavy responsibility, and they live under the constant pressure of abiding by the rules of the road . . . It is our responsibility as Christians to help lighten their load. This place will be a light post where many can plug in."

In closing, Grissett listed qualities volunteers who work at the center will need: "love for God and people; sensitivity to truckers and their needs; flexibility; a non-judgmental attitude;



Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson County Association, left, and Ray Grissett, center, director, Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, spoke to a standing room only crowd, right, when the Truckers and Travelers Welcome Center was dedicated Jan. 5.



Tony Minotti, right, driver from Michigan, talks with Bob Storie, center, director of ministries, Jackson County Association, and Nathaniel Anderson, member of Christ Temple Church.

Minotti was the third trucker to visit the center after it opened. Since then, he has helped to advertise the ministry by distributing the Center's pocket calendars. In forefront is Mrs. Montie Davis.

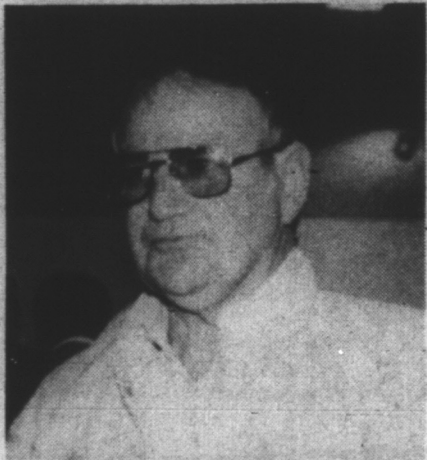
a desire to cooperate with everybody and to get the job done."

Larry Dees, pastor of Temple Church, led the invocation; Ray Campbell, pastor of Escatawpa Church, led the prayer of dedication. Women of Parkway Church served refreshments; they had pictured trucks in cake icing.

Storie introduced Mona B. Nolf of Escatawpa who had written a tract especially for the truck ministry, titled "Point of No Return."

Said Sadler, "I am glad to be a part of this dream. One who made it come true is Bob Storie. We appreciate his conscientiousness, his determination, and his unselfish giving of self to this ministry. Today we honor him."

"The life of a trucker is lonely. He spends a lot of time away from his family and is on the road much of the time. That's why a ministry such as ours is so essential." — Bob Storie



Alfred Clark, truck driver for 34 years, said that nowhere in the country has he seen a place similar to the Truckers Welcome Center in Pascagoula and he likes it. Clark is a member of Ridglea Heights Church.



## ADMINISTRATORS

From page 3

ed slowly but drastically over the last months, so that working with any sense of missiological purpose or personal integrity has become impossible," said Parker, a 23-year veteran of missions.

Trustees are shifting to using money and power as a method to control Baptist bodies overseas and to enforce theological orthodoxy and are ignoring the diversity and autonomy of European Baptists, he charged.

"Granted, it was appropriately said no one will be forced to agree with us, but to get our money they must agree on the 'basics,'" Parker said. "What does that do, however, to those many tiny, poor unions who need our help and to their individual churches who may be told they must agree locally to whatever we Americans proscribe as 'basic' so they can get out of debt or build a church building? Is this the way to do missions? Is this trust?"

The trust between Southern Baptists and Europeans, built over many years, "is being destroyed and will profoundly affect mission outreach and ongoing work within Europe for generations," he said. "The urgent appeal of the European (Baptist) leaders was to talk about partnership as (being) built on trust, not about money. That point seemed to be missed totally (by the trustees) in putting conditions of control on the offered restoring of money."

He also claimed the previous stance of trustees to serve all Southern Baptists is "being radically changed" to an approach that indicates "only 'inerrantists' should hold staff positions and be appointed as missionaries."

Both men said the trustees have a global agenda to expand their views worldwide.

"With the clear signal that the so-called 'conservative resurgence' within the Southern Baptist Convention is also an agenda for the global missions effort, I can no longer represent this board at home or overseas," said Ballenger, a 28-year missions veteran.

"To the board (of trustees) itself, I can no longer represent (my region) . . . for either I am not trusted or what I have to say is irrelevant to their goals and intentions."

Parker said "the political agenda within the SBC has overtaken most of our work to the near-exclusion of missions."

"A letter written by a trustee (Ron Wilson of California) to the (trustee) chairman (Bill Hancock of Kentucky) confirms for me the seriousness of the political agenda," Parker said. The letter "may represent a more radical 'minority' on the current board, (but) the attitudes now pervade and undermine our work."

Quoting excerpts from the letter, Parker said "the conviction was expressed that our staff and many of the missionary force in Europe are so-called 'liberals' or 'neo-orthodox' and that the appointment of them (us) over the last 25 years has brought about the problems we now have."

He also noted the letter calls for addressing "theological issues on the field in the same way that we addressed them here in the states," says the "obvious place to start is in Europe, and in particular, Ruschlikon seminary," and shows "disdain" for elected European Baptist leaders by urging that the Foreign Mission Board deal with different people in Europe.

"More shocking still is the global ambition revealed (in the letter)," Parker said. "In an appeal to make strong changes in the different trustee committees . . . to bring about the required changes, the document says: 'There is not much happening in the rest of the world and we need to stack this committee with people who will

see it through. If we cannot address liberalism and the mistakes of Europe, we will never be able to address liberalism and other problems in other parts of the world."

Contacted for response, Wilson said, "It's amazing, and in a sense complimentary, that (Parker) would think I have much influence with the chairman or the board as a whole, because that letter is simply my attempt to address some of the problems I see."

"My letter is not the agenda of the board. Keith Parker knows better than that. He's using that letter for his own political gain."

"It's nothing more than a trustee's concern expressed to the chairman of the board, and it would be a mistake to make it anything more. There are differences of opinion on the board and the chairman has the freedom to accept, reject, or ignore my correspondence. He chose not to be influenced by it."

Wilson rejected the idea that the trustees have an agenda for control. But he added: "If 'agenda' means the majority of the members want people who believe in all the Bible, then the answer is 'yes.' So do all Southern Baptists. To say I have theological concerns and commitment is fair. To say I have a political agenda is not."

As for politics, "the conservatives aren't the only ones who are political in the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

Repeated attempts by Baptist Press to contact board chairman Hancock for comment were unsuccessful, but trustee Steve Hardy, chairman of the Europe, Middle East, and North Africa committee, said the trustees have no global agenda for enforcing theological orthodoxy.

However, he said, "It would be fair to say that some trustees perceive we've been involved with some institutions and ministries that have maintained a radically different theological concept than what our board operates under or what would be expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message Statement."

"Some trustees are frustrated about the continuance of those relationships," he said. "The trustees want to work with all Baptist groups, in Europe or elsewhere, that are seeking to win people to Christ and start Baptist churches."

Parker's statement concluded, "We have a great group of missionaries in Europe who work in a very difficult area of the world."

"I love them. They are not 'liberals,' they are Christians."

"We have wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ in the Baptist family all across that great continent who have no earthly idea what is going on with us Southern Baptists. They are not 'liberal.' They love Jesus, too. Proportionally they win more people to Christ than do Southern Baptists and under far more difficult circumstances."

Ballenger said both his interpretation of the Bible, "which is for me authoritative," and his view of missions bring him into conflict with the trustees.

"I think the Bible teaches us to regard unity in the body of believers as a worthy goal," he said. "Disunity has been brought to our denomination and now our overseas work is threatened by the same malady."

"I think the Bible teaches us to give to the world without having to govern, to donate without having to dominate, to cooperate with Baptists in other lands without questioning their credentials, as if we were the measure by which others are to be evaluated. I believe the Bible teaches us to be partners, which leaves no room for paternalism . . ."

O'Brien writes for FMB.



# Hancock letter gives reasons

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Disagreement with Glenn Hinson's theology was only one of many reasons Foreign Mission Board trustees voted to defund the Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, according to trustee chairman Bill Hancock.

The naming of Hinson — a Southern Seminary professor many FMB trustees regard as liberal — to a short-term teaching assignment at Ruschlikon was the latest in a long line of events trustees cite to support their vote on a seminary they believe is too liberal and too expensive.

Stung by heavy criticism of the defunding at home and abroad, and angered by what they feel was incomplete press reporting of the action, trustees directed Hancock to write an open letter to Southern Baptists explaining their position.

Hancock's 10-page letter, titled "A Report on Ruschlikon," is dated Jan. 3. FMB staff gave top-priority handling, through a commercial printer and mailer in Richmond, to distributing almost 40,000 copies. Mailing was being done Jan. 9-10, with a few remaining to be mailed Jan. 13.

The trustees voted 35-28 Oct. 9 to remove \$365,000 in Foreign Mission Board funds from the 1992 budget allocation for the seminary in Ruschlikon and redirect it to theological education in eastern Europe.

The vote produced a storm of protest from Southern Baptists and European Baptist unions, as well as some support, notably from the large Romanian Baptist Union.

In his letter, Hancock reviews the historical, financial, and theological aspects of the Ruschlikon seminary from the trustees' perspective and includes a section headed "Questions of Trust."

The seminary was begun by Southern Baptist missionaries in 1949 in an effort to unify European Baptists in the wake of two world wars, Hancock said. "The school had a successful beginning and remained financially stable for over 20 years," he wrote, until a series of financial crises in the 1970s.

The mission board deeded the seminary to the European Baptist Federation in 1988, agreeing to continue major FMB financial support (about a third of the seminary budget) through 1992, with decreasing support extending until 2008.

"The property was given with the strong impression that the Ruschlikon president (Southern Baptist missionary John David Hopper) was committed to move the seminary in a more conservative theological direction and to lead the seminary to be more aggressive in evangelism and church planting," Hancock said.

On the financial front, problems have persisted as the seminary struggles to continue operation in an extremely expensive Swiss economy and in a facility needing major renovation. Supporting the 48 full-time students enrolled in the seminary last fall cost Southern Baptists \$15,937 per student in Cooperative Program funds, compared to an average of \$2,474 per student at the six Southern Baptist seminaries in the United States, Hancock reported.

"When there have been sporadic financial crises at Ruschlikon for 19 years resulting in more severe problems after each crisis; when the cost of operation is evaluated; when the student enrollment and cost per student is appraised; when urgent repairs are pending; the question is valid and must be answered, 'Is it financially feasible for Southern Baptists to continue supporting an institution with these circumstances anywhere in the world?'" Hancock asked.

The letter includes a statement that seminary president Hopper said he believes the seminary is cost-effective. Hancock said Hopper feels the expenditure is justified because the seminary serves as a conference center and provides a variety of training programs for about 600 full- and part-time students including pastors, missionaries, laymen, and church leaders from across Europe.

The trustee chairman outlined a list of theological concerns trustees have about Ruschlikon, its president and

faculty members, including the degree of their commitment to evangelism, church growth, and conservative theology, their perceived tolerance of theologians who question Christ's virgin birth and resurrection, their appointment of Glenn Hinson to a teaching post, and the charge by Romanian Baptists that professors from Ruschlikon planted "doubts in their lectures that the Bible is entirely the Word of God."

On "questions of trust," Hancock acknowledged some people "have charged the trustees with violating a trust to fund Ruschlikon through 1992." But he repeated the trustees' understanding that seminary president Hopper had pledged in 1988 to "move the seminary toward a more conservative theological position. Trustees understood there would be greater emphasis on evangelism and training church planters. Some trustees feel this trust has been violated," he said.

He also renewed his charge that Ruschlikon and Hopper had violated the Foreign Mission Board's indigenous principle by undertaking independent fund-raising efforts in the United States without informing the FMB trustees.

He concluded the letter by reviewing the December dialogue between trustees, FMB staff, Ruschlikon leaders, and European Baptist representatives. The decision concerning Ruschlikon "might have been different," Hancock said, if any of the participants — trustees, staff, European Baptist leaders, or seminary leaders — had been willing to compromise.

"Whatever the developments in the future, I can stand before God and Southern Baptists and declare I did my best to resolve this issue," he said. "However, it was an impossible assignment when there was no movement toward reconciliation by the parties involved."

"As individuals and autonomous congregations, you must decide the direction of your support in the future. Whatever your choice, may God be glorified and souls saved."

# Trustees may speed departure of Parks

By Thomas Mullen

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — The head of the Foreign Mission Board may be on his way out of the Richmond-based agency.

In the wake of the retirement Jan. 7 of two of his top executives, Keith Parks said discussions of his own future as board president will "intensify" over the next month or so. He declined to speculate further.

However, a coalition of fundamental-conservative trustees will ask the board during a meeting in February to speed up the establishment of a search committee to replace Parks, sources said.

# Trustees want Europe chiefs out sooner

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Isam Ballenger and Keith Parker will vacate their Foreign Mission Board administrative posts Jan. 31 rather than at midyear under an agreement negotiated with agency trustee leaders.

The agreement followed negative reaction from a number of trustees after Ballenger, 56, and Parker, 55, announced their early retirements Jan. 7 in protest of trustee actions and philosophies.

Meanwhile, Parks' own position seems unclear, according to a report in the Richmond News Leader, the city's afternoon newspaper.

Citing anonymous sources, the report said "a coalition of fundamentalist trustees will ask the board ... to speed up establishment of a search committee to replace Dr. Parks."

Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, and Parker, area director for Europe, announced they would leave their posts May 31 and July 1, respectively.

Some trustees urged that the two men leave immediately. But the resulting agreement, if not altered at the next trustee meeting Feb. 10-12 in Richmond, would allow Ballenger and Parker to remain in their posts until Jan. 31, serve as consultants in February and receive full salary and benefits through their previously announced departure dates.

Parks, who turns 65 in October, said earlier he wanted to remain as president until 1995 to implement an ambitious 10-point strategy he outlined last year for global evangelization. The News Leader said the coalition "will report that the 'continuity' of Dr. Parks' leadership will not be necessary to implement" his plan.

Trustee chairman Bill Hancock told Baptist Press he feels Parks should be allowed to remain as president until he chooses to retire.

Parks said discussions will "intensify" over his tenure but declined to speculate further.

Hancock said Ballenger's and Parker's "volatile language" in opposition to trustees provoked the reaction that led to the early departure.

A number of trustees reportedly don't want Ballenger or Parker to attend upcoming meetings with European Baptists. One such meeting would be a gathering of leaders of the European Baptist Federation Jan. 26-29 in Dorfweil, Germany.

Sources added that the same group also will report that the "continuity" of Parks' leadership will not be necessary to implement an ambitious missions project he outlined last year.

Parks, who will turn 65 in October, has said he wants to remain as president until 1995 and that changing administrative leadership before then would jeopardize meeting the goals of the mission plan.

However, most observers now believe Parks' future with the board is tenuous, especially since fundamental-conservative trustees will be able to replace the executives who retired — Isam Ballenger, vice president for work in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe.

Parks, who lamented the resignations, told Associated Baptist Press that a majority of trustees will consider the resignations "appropriate."

"A good number of trustees will be pleased that this has happened," he said.

Parks said the resignations and the dispute over FMB work in Europe will force several issues to the surface, including his own tenure.

"The board is going to have to clarify some things for the Southern Baptists and the (FMB) administration," he told ABP.

Concerning his own leadership of the Foreign Mission Board, Parks said, "I hope (the trustees) will clear it up for all concerned."

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# Breach "may have been planned in advance"

By Greg Warner and Mark Wingfield

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — The growing breach between Baptists in the United States and Europe may have been planned in advance by some Foreign Mission Board trustees and not merely the result of a dispute over a Swiss seminary.

A letter written by a trustee last May — five months before the FMB defunded the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland — outlines a comprehensive plan to correct "liberalism and the mistakes of Europe" by severing ties with European Baptists and dealing instead "with different people in all of Europe."

The letter, dated May 3, 1991, was written by trustee Ron Wilson, who serves on the FMB committee overseeing work in Europe, and sent to FMB chairman Bill Hancock. It is unclear how Wilson's letter was made public, since both Wilson and Hancock deny leaking the letter to anyone. But by early January, copies had been acquired by some trustees, FMB staff members, and members of the press.

Since the letter was written, several key elements of the strategy have been adopted by trustees, including the defunding of the Ruschlikon seminary, funding of a conservative

seminary in Romania, and policy changes that give trustees more control of the appointment of missionaries.

"The things mentioned in that letter are the things being done right now," said FMB President Keith Parks. "I would say the agenda is being followed pretty well."

Both Wilson and Hancock said the letter had no impact on those decisions, however.

"I assure you, I don't have that kind of influence on this board," Wilson said Jan. 7. Wilson, pastor of First Church in Thousand Oaks, Calif., pointed out other suggestions were ignored by the chairman and trustees.

"It didn't influence me one ounce," agreed Hancock, pastor of Highview Church in Louisville, Ky.

But Keith Parker, who resigned Jan. 7 as the FMB's area director for Europe, said Wilson's letter demonstrates the trustees' "global ambition" to enforce fundamentalist views on Baptists overseas.

Wilson's letter states: "If we cannot address liberalism and the mistakes of Europe, we will never be able to address liberalism and other problems in other parts of the world."

In a press conference Jan. 7, during

which Parker and FMB vice president Isam Ballenger announced their resignations, Parker quoted from the letter, in which Wilson blamed the FMB staff for "mistakes" that led to the "European debacle."

The Foreign Mission Board works in partnership with established Baptist bodies in Europe, sending missionaries only when they are requested by Baptist leaders in each nation. But privately some trustees say such partnerships have hampered the FMB's outreach efforts in Europe because European Baptists are not conservative enough.

Wilson in his letter says the FMB should abandon established relationships with elected European Baptist leaders and work instead with more conservative Baptists on the continent.

"I realize that we have dealt with people and developed relationships over 40 years of time and that we would be taking a chance if we changed horses at this point in time," he wrote to Hancock. "However, the positive possibilities should far outweigh any fear we might have of making a mistake in this matter."

"We need to deal with different people in all of Europe and we desperate- (See RUSCHLIKON on page 9)



# "I want to see if I can still learn," says seminary student

By Shannon T. Simpson

On Nov. 24, 1991 First Church, Raleigh honored one of its members.

Though it is not unusual for churches to honor members, this particular woman is considered unusual by her congregation.

Willie Jones Tullios has attended First, Raleigh, for 61 years. She has directed adult choirs, was RA counselor for 25 years, was director of age 3-6 Training Union for about 30 years, and was church pianist for "several" years.

After 62 years of teaching, at age 83 she still walks "up the hill" from her house to Raleigh Middle School, where she teaches piano to around 50 students and violin to one. She says she continues to teach for two reasons: "I enjoy it! And my doctor wants me to."

"I work because, even though I depend on the Lord to take care of me, just like the little birds he feeds, he still doesn't put the food in the nest."

She is also pursuing another interest: a painting class has revealed she has talent in the visual arts as well.

Tullios also has taken more than 12 seminary extension courses over the last ten years. She was recently enrolled in Old Testament Survey. Though she makes good grades, she couldn't tell you exactly how many courses she has taken, simply because she "doesn't care" about the course credits. "I take them because I want to see if I can still learn," she says. "I've always been interested in church activities and the Bible. I like the fellowship, too."

Her seminary extension teacher James T. Bryant of Taylorsville says she is "a very good student. Her dedication and energy challenge all pastors, teachers, and others who



Willie Jones Tullios performs on one of the pianos at her home in Raleigh.

have a need to know the Bible to become involved in serious Bible study. It is a blessing for me to know her."

A plaque given to Tullios by First Church, Raleigh spoke of her "dedicated leadership of children . . . willing and humble spirit to love . . . and her loving encouragement . . ."

Tullios' love for children shows: she continues to perform with her students at recitals, arranging works and even writing her own for them.

"I'm afraid I'm a little hard on them sometimes," she says, "But I know they can do well, and I want them to

try."

Born Willie Jones Harper near Grenada, she was reared by her maternal grandmother near Prentiss.

Though her family were Christians, she did not exercise her faith until she was 17 years old. She recalls the early incident that later sparked her desire to be baptized: "I was swimming in a swimming hole one time with some kids. I stepped off in deep water and began to drown. I started to think to myself, 'I'm going to go to hell because I'm not saved.' I went under for the third time and lost consciousness. My uncle pulled me out, but I never forgot that. It kept working in my mind until I was baptized at Emmanuel Church in Hattiesburg, while a piano student at Mississippi Woman's College (William Carey)."

After college, she moved to Raleigh to teach, where she met Holmes Tullios. They married in 1930.

The couple had five sons, all now living in Raleigh, and one daughter, a professional violinist and teacher in Collierville, Tenn. Though her husband died in 1973, she maintains the home they built over 30 years ago.

Of the surprise November celebration in her honor, Tullios says it was a small miracle she never found out about it. "I went to the church, and there were my sister, my pupils, my children, all my kinfolk. I said to myself, 'It's not my birthday, what is going on?' I never would have agreed to it if I had known."

Someone there said that if her former students were asked to stand, not one person would have remained seated.

Tullios' pastor believes her perseverance in attending the seminary extension classes is testimony not only to her eagerness to learn, but an affirmation of the need for the classes. "I wish more people would attend the seminary classes. Everyone can learn something," Tullios says.

"Everyone in this town loves her to death," says First, Raleigh's pastor, Mitchell Ferguson. "No one has ever spoken an ill word about her. They are so amazed at her talents. She has an incredible depth of knowledge of the Bible from the seminary classes and from self-study. She is always so ready to give attention to other people, and not concentrate on herself. That is a ministry by itself."

## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

### "Missionary" on the coast says it with flowers

"If we had ten more like Mrs. Ruth, we would be running over with *agape* love." That's what her pastor, Sid Taylor, said about Ruth Hailey. "She's a living example of Christianity. She finds ways of service that most folks don't see."

Her friend, Agnes Brasher, told me, "When she is not taking care of her family or calling or visiting someone in need of her service, she is out working in her flower or vegetable garden."

Flowers which she grew decorate the sanctuary of her church, Olivet in Gulfport, every Sunday. So do they brighten many hospital rooms across the coast, including those at Keesler Medical Center and the V.A. hospital.

When I stopped to visit her, I immediately asked to see her backyard garden. Already, from what I'd seen in the front, I knew it would be a source of delight. It was. With a whole grove of banana trees that she planted (she used to sell banana trees), she has created a miniature tropical "island" at 2506 Halsel Street in Gulfport.

Her son, a policeman, lives there with her and her husband, a retired mechanic. Her other son, also a policeman, died of a heart attack at 41. Her daughter, Genevieve, lives in Ocean Springs.

In addition, Ruth claims six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

When she found out how much I like plants and flowers, she got her shovel and ran hither and yon digging up banana trees for me, and amaryllis bulbs and umbrella grass . . . She filled the trunk of our car with pots full of greenery — a small palm tree she had grown from a seed, an airplane plant, a cactus, and — you name it.

Her dog Benji all but turned flips in his excitement as he followed us around to look at her roses, the red berries on her holly, the new leaves of her turnips, collards, and mustard . . .

"I like to visit the shut-ins and take them flowers or vegetables, with copies of Guidepost," she said. "I think our shut-ins need to know about what is going on at the church, so they can take part in some way. I took a Lottie Moon Offering envelope to one shut-in; she called and asked me to come back and get her offering. She had put \$10 in the envelope."

Though Ruth does not drive, a couple of her friends drive her to visit

sick or shut-ins, to minister to people in need, or to invite someone to church: Agnes Brasher and Agnes Jordan. Always she goes out to meet them with her arms full of flowers and vegetables, and a smile on her face.

Blue eyes twinkled with merriment as Ruth recalled a day she went to see a woman from the Philippines who had visited in Sunday School at Olivet. "We wanted to ask her to come again. But she said she was hoping to find Spanish-speaking church." Near the Filipino woman's house, the car Ruth and her driver were riding in that day broke down, and several hours passed before it could be repaired. In the meantime, the turnip greens in the car (brought for delivery to someone else) were wilting, and the women were getting hungry. So Ruth took the greens to the Filipino woman, helped her to wash them, showed her how to cook them (as she'd never cooked such greens before), and stayed for dinner with her!

The 74-year-old Ruth has taught a class of women 35 and up in Sunday School since the regular teacher had a stroke. "I asked if they didn't want someone younger, but they insisted they wanted me!" Previously, she had taught Sunday School many years.

Philippians is her favorite Bible book: "It has so many good verses, like 'Be careful for nothing,' (meaning 'Don't worry about anything'). When Paul wrote that book, he was facing death, but he wrote of joy, joy, joy!"

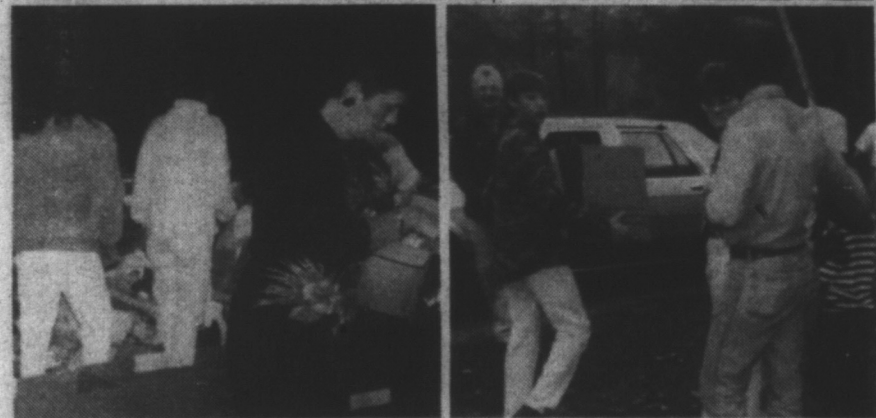
In her hometown of Collierville, Tenn., near Memphis, she joined a Baptist church at age 18. However, she said she did not actually become a Christian until she was 30. "The Holy Spirit convicted me, and when I surrendered to him, then I found peace in my heart." Perhaps that's why she likes this verse so much: "Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

Before moving to Mississippi, she had worked for 31 years with a company that made toy horses. In another job, sorting gladioli bulbs for a nursery, she had first acquired her interest in growing flowers.

After less than a hour with Ruth, I felt I had known her always. I knew without a doubt that what Agnes Brasher had said of her was true: "Her commitment to God is reflected in our church and in her daily life, and I know it has a significant impact on the mission field we have on the Mississippi Gulf Coast."



Ruth Hailey talks to her dog, Benji. Behind them are her house and a part of her banana tree "forest."



### Simpson gives toys to needy children

Simpson Baptist Association, in its ministry, "Toys for Needy Children," gave toys to 447 children during December. Individuals, institutions, churches, and businesses donated toys (top photo) and money. Volunteers carried out the ministry, including the donation of boxes. A Baptist Men's group prepared toy boxes. Volunteers gave secretarial help in taking applications. Baptist Young Women and Acteens sorted and boxed toys (bottom left photo). Acteens and Royal Ambassadors (bottom right) distributed toys. H. Glen Schilling is director of missions.



# Church workers approve Sunday School material

By Frank Wm. White

NASHVILLE (BP) — After six years of planning and development, improved Southern Baptist Sunday School literature introduced by the Sunday School Board in October 1991 has been subjected to its final test — use in local churches.

Workers praised activities for preschoolers and children, spiritually grounded adult materials, colorfulness, and general ease of use for teachers' materials. Many, especially children's workers, said the enlarged size of the pupil pieces was a problem.

The unquestioned star, based on user comments, is the improved literature for youth. Optional WordData notebooks and the "Youth Sunday School Workers Notebook," along with a Bible study system that includes new Bible study cards represent major changes in youth materials.

The materials have sparked interest among youth at First Baptist Church of Tupelo, Miss., according to Bill Bustin, youth minister.

"The kids pay \$5 for the notebook. They love it. We even have some college students buying them," he said.

Bustin said youth like the notebook as a way to organize Bible study materials and are finding the journal, study guides, and word dictionary useful.

After trying for two years to develop a regular, on-going workers' meeting, Bustin said the new materials have stimulated worker interest in planning sessions.

Laura Murphy, who teaches high school seniors at the Tupelo church,

said she tries to prepare teens for "the roughness of the world."

"I feel like someone has gone to a lot of effort to apply the Bible materials to their situations. I haven't had to supplement any material this year," she said.

Tupelo teachers Gerald Pittman and Julia Bethay noted their own teens have initiated daily quiet times and are studying Sunday School materials during the week.

The notebook for youth workers is not flashy but functional, said Brenda Harris, education director at North Cleveland Church in Cleveland, Tenn.

Harris has been a writer for youth materials since 1986 and is Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team director for the Bradley Baptist Association.

In an informal survey of state Sunday School directors and associates during the December Sunday School annual planning meeting, respondents indicated general satisfaction with curriculum improvements among Sunday School workers in their states.

Of the 97 respondents, 83% said comments from users indicate they are satisfied or very satisfied with the attractiveness of the improved curriculum.

Quality of Bible content also was rated high with 81% saying people in their states were satisfied or very satisfied while 76% said users were satisfied or very satisfied with the quantity of Bible study material.

White writes for BSSB.

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## Keeping promises made

By John H. Voss

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for him to be received up, that he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51).

They must have looked as strange as they sounded — this mixed group of disciples and followers, traveling with Jesus on this final and fateful trip to Jerusalem, and competing for the most emphatic way to assure him of their unfailing loyalty. Jesus had said that he would soon be delivered into the hands of men, and each must have known the possible consequences of walking into Jerusalem with him. Yet their assurances likewise reveal an underlying basis for failure. In contrast to the unwavering resolve of Jesus, their responses to Christ provide graphic examples of how we, too, might fail in our resolve to follow in the footsteps of our Lord.

(1) By not allowing Jesus to transform hate and contempt for others into love for them. James and John, for example, incurred the rebuke of Christ for suggesting that certain inhospitable Samaritans be destroyed by fire from heaven. A follower of Christ must seek a man's salvation, not his destruction, even if that man is his enemy. Often has a Christian's commitment to walk with Jesus in Christian love abruptly ended when he encountered one for whom he had human contempt.

(2) By making ill conceived and unkept promises to Jesus. One of these travelers boldly informed Jesus that he would follow him "wherever you go." When confronted by Christ with the possible austere material and physical consequences of his promises, he said no more. We are similarly inclined to promise Christ much and ultimately do so little. Christ seeks those who will deny self and journey all the way with him and not be defeated by the demands of Christian living.

(3) By responding to Christ's call with transparent excuses. In response to Jesus' admonition to follow him, another sought to postpone a response by talking about his obligation to first bury his father. Either he was confessing to the shocking fact that indeed his father was dead and he was out walking along with this group, or he was stalling for time — that he might follow Jesus at some future time when he had in fact buried his father. Jesus was not impressed. Christ's call upon our life demands our life, our all, and not weak excuses about what we plan to do when the time is right.

(4) By allowing relations with others to sidetrack commitment to Jesus. A fourth traveler assured Jesus he would follow also, but only after bidding farewell to those at his house. Thus he gave human relations priority over commitment to Christ. To walk with Jesus demands a willingness to walk away from others who may divert us from the path of Christ. Only through such a wrenching personal commitment can Jesus truly become Lord in the believer's life.

May our resolve at the beginning of this new year to victoriously walk with Jesus be the one resolution that we truly keep.

Voss is legal counsel, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Voss



# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

## RE: Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act

By J. Brent Walker, Baptist Joint Committee

Efforts to funnel public tax dollars into parochial schools (parochiaid) are nothing new. Today such attempts march under the banner of "parental choice," in education. Parents can already choose to send their children to parochial schools, and now some want the government to pay for it. Parochial school choice is included in the President's America 2000 education proposal and the Comprehensive Neighborhood Schools Revitalization Act (H.R. 3320) which is pending in the House.

In the Senate, the Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act (S.2) recently cleared committee and is expected to be voted on in the week of January 20. Laudably, the Senate bill does not permit public funds to pay for parochial education; it allows "choice" only within the public school system.

But, supporters of parochiaid are gearing up to make several floor amendments to the Senate bill.

Using tax dollars for religious purposes, including religious education, is a blatant breach of the wall of separation between church and state. It impermissibly promotes religion and violates the consciences of those taxpayers who disagree with a school's religious teachings. It will also result in destructive governmental regulation and church-state entanglements. While we should all support efforts to improve public education, we must oppose proposals that would allow tax dollars to be funnelled into religious schools. When that happens both churches and government are big losers.

We urge you to contact your Senators and let them know of your opposition to any amendments to S.2 that would allow public aid to parochial schools, including private school choice and demonstration projects. Address your senator at U. S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 or call (202) 224-3121.

## Texas 'conservatives' organize to take over state convention

By Jim Jones

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) — More than 200 Texas Baptists met Jan. 7 to map strategy to take political control of the state convention for fundamental-conservatives, a leader of the group said.

The group met over breakfast in Fort Worth, Texas, where most participants were attending the state evangelism conference. They formed the Conservative Fellowship, which plans to have chapters throughout Texas, the leader said.

One of its goals, he said, would be to return Baylor University to the control of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and to elect fundamental-conservatives as officers of the state convention.

Moderate-conservatives now are in control of the state convention, which claims 2.5 million members. But fundamental-conservatives have won control of the national Southern Baptist Convention, including its seminaries, mission boards, and other agencies.

Texas fundamental-conservatives suffered a setback at last November's state convention when Baptists approved a plan that released Baylor from official control of the state organization. Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church of Dallas, and others led a campaign at that time to restore Baylor to its former governing system.

Perry Ellis, a former missionary

and staff member of First Church of Dallas, was named executive director of the new fellowship.

Among other leaders involved in forming the new group, the spokesman said, were Gregory; Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church of Dallas; Miles Seaborn, pastor of Birchman Church in Fort Worth; and John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Church in Houston.

A statement of goals issued by the Conservative Fellowship, the spokesman said, encouraged participants to organize for next year's state convention and to establish a promotional plan to elect fundamental-conservatives to key Baptist offices, such as convention president.

One goal, he said, would be to set up a database for pertinent information on Texas churches, listing key church leaders such as the chairman of deacons and president of the Woman's Missionary Union.

He said other goals include promoting Bible study and evangelistic rallies, encouraging Christian renewal in the home, organizing Conservative Fellowship branches in all 112 Baptist associations, publishing a monthly newspaper, forming a financial committee, and planning retreats for lay members in all regions of Texas.

Reprinted with permission from the Fort Worth SUN-TELEGRAM.

## Johnson & Johnson recognizes baby of the new year at MBMC

The first baby of the new year born at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center came into the world with special distinction.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chenoweth, parents of David William Chenoweth, born at 4:59 a.m., were informed that their son had been named a Johnson's Baby of the New Year in recognition of the 100th anniversary year of Johnson's Baby products. Hospitals across the country who participated

in this 100th anniversary event with Johnson and Johnson are also announcing their "winning" babies.

As a winner, little David William received a certificate distinguishing him as Baby of the New Year. In addition, the baby will be entered in a nationwide sweepstakes with other Baby of the New Year winners for a \$1,000 CollegeSure CD to be used for his education.

# Just for the Record



GAs of Westside Church, Bruce, were presented with Mission Adventure Badges at a recognition service held for them and their parents on Dec. 22. Pictured, left to right, are Bea Mayhan, leader; Randi Cain; Jennifer Ruth; Susan Blaylock; Kellie Ruth; and Jeanine Tallant, leader.



A GA recognition service, "What A Wonderful World" was held at First Church, Richland. There were over 30 second through sixth grade girls participating in this service. The leaders were Pam Hawthorne, Clara Shelton, Kathy Thibodeaux, and Theresa Fortenberry. GA director is Sandy Ashley and pastor is Allen Stephens.

## Staff changes

East Forest Church, Forest, recently called Monroe Harrell as minister of music. He has served several churches in the Mississippi Delta and North Mississippi in a similar capacity. Harrell is also a member of the Gospel Travelers Quartet from East Forest Church. Frank B. Morgan Jr. is



Harrell pastor.

Rodney Anderson assumed duties as pastor of Hickory Church, Newton Association, on Sunday, Jan. 5. Anderson goes to Hickory Church from Ryans Creek Church in Cullman, Ala. He was born in Fairfield, Calif. and is a graduate of Sanford University and Southern Seminary.

Lowell Johnson has accepted the pastorate of Centreville Church, Centreville, effective Jan. 1. He formerly pastored McDowell Road Church, Jackson, for 4½ years. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Janice, have one son, Tim.

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# BYW/BW retreat set for Camp Lake Stephens



Tyler



Calvert



Tubbs



Brunt



Neff



Burnham

Camp Lake Stephens, near Oxford, will be the setting for a retreat for Baptist Young Women and Baptist Women Feb. 7-8. The cost is \$25 per person. Registration deadline is Jan.

27. Attendance is not limited to BYW/BW members. All women are invited.

The theme, "Making Time for Myself, Family and Others . . . All in God's Time," will be developed through prayer and praise, worship, Bible study, music, and conferences.

Retreat leaders will include Deborah Brunt, Kathy Burnham, Stuart Calvert, Sharon Neff, Joan Tyler, and Peggy Tubbs.

The time frame is Friday supper, 6 p.m., through Saturday lunch. Make checks payable to Woman's Missionary Union and mail \$25 per person to WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## Ruschlikon

From page 5

ly need to show the (FMB) staff that that is our desire," he wrote. "Giving money to (the seminary in) Oradea is our finest opportunity to move in that direction."

Funding the seminary — a conservative, independent school affiliated with Second Baptist Church in Oradea, Romania — demonstrates the authority of trustees and sends an encouraging message to "the conservative leadership of Western Europe" and to "the new evangelical and non-compromised leadership of eastern Europe," Wilson wrote.

Funds for the Oradea school were later authorized.

FMB president Parks acknowledged some trustees have complained that the FMB is "relating with the wrong leadership in Europe." But, he said, "it is not clear to me" who the trustees have in mind, if not the elected European leaders.

Some trustees have spoken of an emerging conservative or evangelical influence in Europe, particularly in the more conservative countries of the East. They favor dealing directly with those groups, bypassing established Baptist unions on the continent.

According to Parks, Europeans see such attempts as "disruptive" to Baptist work there. "I don't see how it can work without creating different conventions," he warned.

The prospect of splitting European Baptist conventions has led critics on both continents to accuse FMB trustees of "exporting" the SBC controversy to Europe — imposing on the European situation the same theological/political divisions that characterize Baptists in the States.

But, Wilson wrote, the denominational controversy "has already been exported overseas" during the last 25 years by FMB leaders "who allowed missionaries to be sent who were neo-orthodox in their theology."

"Thus, for over a generation we have exported our own heresy all over the world through some of our missionary force," he wrote to Hancock. "The crime has already been committed; the question is what are we going to do about it?"

"Sooner or later we must address the theological difficulties on the field in the same way that we addressed it here in the States," he continued.

## Householder announces retirement from SSB

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Lloyd Householder, assistant vice president for communications at the Baptist Sunday School Board, has announced his retirement, effective Feb. 1.

Householder, 62, and a 32-year employee of the board, also is chief of the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper, who since becoming president in August 1991 has worked with Householder, said his first five months at the board have been greatly eased because of the "skilled and dedicated work of Lloyd Householder. He has done a splendid job in arranging for the many details of the transition in the executive leadership here at the BSSB, and I am deeply grateful. We owe a debt of gratitude to this outstanding Christian journalist. All of us here at the BSSB will join together in praying for him in these days that lie ahead."

Lawson writes for BSSB.

## Retired organist dies

Hazel Chisholm, 92, of 1126 Quinn St., Jackson, a church organist and college voice teacher, died of heart failure Jan. 11 in Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

Funeral services were Jan. 13 at First Church, Jackson.

Miss Chisholm, a Summit native, was a longtime Jackson resident. She was the organist at First Church for 27 years and a voice teacher at Belhaven College. Miss Chisholm, who graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, was a member of the First Baptist Church.

## Former WMU state president dies

Almarine Brown, 94, a retired secretary, died of cardiopulmonary arrest Jan. 7 at the Baptist Village Cook Health Care Center in Youngtown, Ariz.

Services were held Jan. 10 at Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home in Jackson.

Miss Brown, a Pontotoc native, graduated from Mississippi University for Women and received her master's degree from Peabody College, now Vanderbilt University, in Nashville. She taught in high schools and community colleges in Mississippi, Texas, and New Mexico. After moving to Jackson, she was a member and Sunday School teacher at First Church. She became president of the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in 1951.

In Phoenix, Miss Brown worked with the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention as its executive secretary. She was a member of First Southern Baptist Church of Scottsdale, Ariz., until she retired in the 1960s.

Survivors include brother, J. Armistead Brown of Jackson; and sister, Mary Brown Thompson of Jackson.

## Mertie Crider of Richland dies

Mertie Chance Crider, 75, died of heart failure January 5 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

Services were Jan. at Baldwin-Lee Funeral Home in Pearl, with burial in Brady Cemetery, Prentiss.

Mrs. Crider, a Prentiss native, had lived in Richland for 27 years. She had taught school in Paynes, Tylertown, and in Pike County.

She was a member of Cleary Church, Richland, and served with her late husband, Pastor V. R. Crider, at churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. She was also a matron of Ratcliff Hall at Mississippi College.

Survivors include two daughters, three brothers, one sister, two half-brothers, a half-sister, and one grandchild.

## Revival dates

Shady Grove First Church, Heidelberg: Jan. 19-22; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jimmy Knight, preaching; Sharber W. Smith, pastor.

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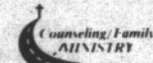
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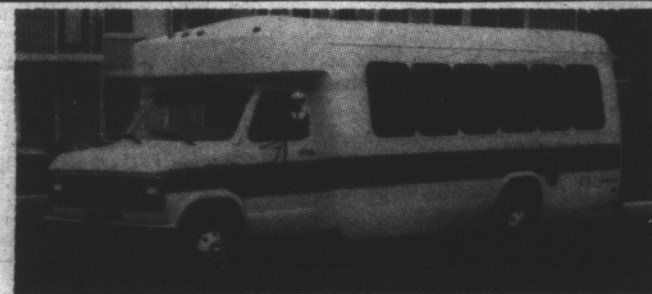
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# God cares for and protects the helpless in society



## LIFE AND WORK

By Lola M. Autry

Genesis 1:28a; Exodus 1:15-2:10;  
Deuteronomy 18:10a; Psalm 139: 13-15;  
Matthew 18:10, 14; 19:14-15.

A bulletin board at Clark Home in Grand Rapids posted the following. Its author is unknown. "Life is a gift, accept it. Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is a mystery, unfold it. Life is a game, play it. Life is a struggle, face it. Life is beauty, praise it. Life is a puzzle, solve it. Life is an opportunity, take it. Life is sorrowful, experience it. Life is a song, sing it. Life is a goal, achieve it. Life is a mission, fulfill it."

But for the aborted child none of this will ever take place; the gift of life was denied.

I. Today's lesson begins with GOD IS CREATOR OF LIFE. As such the miracle of conception receives divine approval. Psalm 139:13-15 is a beautiful passage of praise and fact. The psalmist writes, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." His conclusion acknowledges God was aware of the precise moment he was conceived. To interrupt, by abortion, the creation process that begins with conception is a sin. It is murder.

II. God wants to care for and protect children. Jesus, in his teachings, speaks to the point: "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones" (Matt. 18:10a). According to the dictionary the word "despise" means to scorn, to show contempt for, to disdain. Some would say those words do not apply to abortion, but the question is, If you take someone's life, is that not what you are doing? And in addition, despising the Word of God at the same time? In verse 14 Jesus said, "Even so it is not the will of your

Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

Many women do not agree that abortion is wrong. They do not consider themselves sinners in this matter. One woman, defending herself, stated: "I'm not a BAD sinner. If I'm a sinner at all, I'm a good sinner." According to his Word, I'm sure God does not make that distinction. The Bible teaches that we are to care for and protect children, not destroy them. We cannot do less and obey his will.

III. God cares for and protects the helpless in society and expects us to do the same. There was a time when the Israelites followed the idolatrous practice of sacrificing their children to the Canaanite god Moloch. God forbids the sacrifice of children and declares that to be an abomination. It is his desire that we be entirely obedient to him (Deut. 18:10-13).

Jesus said (Matt. 19:14-15), "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence."

Our concerns for others encompass not only the unborn, but the helpless within our society. I once saw a homeless old woman carrying all she possessed in a plastic wrapped bundle strapped to her back. She stopped and gave her only food to a man seated on the sidewalk. He had no legs. The beauty of that act brought tears. Jesus taught, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). His was a sacrificial love. He gave his all for us. What have we done for him?

Individual Christians as well as churches should provide counseling and help for those in need; for those who took that fatal step of abortion; for mothers who had their babies, but are overwhelmed with problems. Support and solutions are vital. As Christians we MUST carry out Christ's commands. In seeking to help in the matter of abortion we can call toll-free number 1-800-962-0851 for the office of alternatives to abortion ministries at the Home Mission Board.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat.

# The formation of human life is a miracle



## BIBLE BOOK

By Charles E. Nestor

Genesis 1:28a; Deuteronomy 18:10a;  
Psalms 139:13-15; Matthew 18:10, 14; 19:14-15

This area of thought concerning respect for and value of life is an important issue of our day. The idea of abortion is a volatile political and social issue. However, it is also a moral and spiritual matter. Our guideline should always be the Word of God and not public opinion, tradition, or a popularity poll.

We are to affirm God as the Creator of life (Genesis 1:28a; Psalms 139:13-15). God created

male and female. His commission was for them to replenish the earth with inhabitants. It is awesome when we consider the Creator of life allows men and women to share in this through the birth of children. The formation of human life in the female womb is a miracle. The psalmist states human life is fearfully and wonderfully made. Just consider how human life develops in the womb. It is truly a work of God to witness a baby born with all the details of brain, facial features, arms, fingers, legs, and toes. Who could perform such a miracle but God? God cares for the baby in the womb and humans have no right to interfere with the life process.

Moral values in our country have seriously deteriorated. Sexual immorality is increasing, the problem of AIDS is at an all time high and the life of an unborn infant is at the mercy of abortion advocates. The major cause of our moral decay is due to our violation of God's standard for life. Any time we disobey or disregard the principles and teaching of God

we place ourselves under his judgment.

God has a special love for children, as indicated by the statement of Christ in Matthew 18 and 19. According to this passage children are important to God. He loves and cares for them. It is not his will for them to suffer harm. That includes aborted life, physical abuse, neglect, etc. Jesus was most emphatic in his instructions concerning our relationship to these "little ones." His word was that it would be better to have your life taken than to bear responsibility for harming one of them. Apparently those who advocate "wholesale" abortion or those who abuse and neglect children are either unaware of this teaching of Christ or have chosen to ignore it. In either case, it is our Christian responsibility to teach the truth and stand true to the Word of God. He is the Author and Finisher of life. God, alone, has the final word on life and death. No one has the right to "play" with these issues. Life is initiated by God and is precious in his sight. Therefore, we are to revere and handle it as a gift from God. Any disregard for this sacred gift constitutes a viola-

tion of God's moral teaching and will be dealt with by him. Jesus said, "To have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me."

According to Psalm 139, human life is created to praise God and personally know God. He sees and knows our life and we are to enjoy the privilege of living it to the fullest. In the end, we are accountable to God for our life. That involves those who participate in the act of taking human life through an aborted birth. It also includes silent Christians who fail to stand in firm support of the biblical truth concerning the precious nature of human life.

God help us to stand firm in his Word. That may mean some times we must take a position which is not the most popular. We may even be criticized and chastised. However, Jesus instructed his followers that the world would not always agree with them. That is the reason he told them to count the cost before deciding to follow him. Life is precious because it is a gift from God and we are to handle it according to his instructions.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

# Abortion is the holocaust of America



## UNIFORM

By Bobby Williamson

Psalm 139

I can vividly remember a day in January some nearly 13 years ago when my first son came into the world. As I witnessed his first sounds and watched with great anticipation as birth unfolded once again, I thought to myself, "Life is truly a miracle of God!" I have since relived this chain of events in the births of my two younger sons, and each and every time I am reminded that our children are truly gifts from God.

Today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. On a day such as this we must focus on the very fact that we as parents are, in essence, co-creators with God of new life. We are not solely responsible for the conception of a new being. Somehow as infinite creatures we must realize that an infinite God is a co-creator of all life. He then gives us the responsibility of nurturing the precious young ones, and providing for their every need.

In verse 13 of the 139th Psalm we find David clearly shows us that God is the Author of our being, while our parents are the instruments. David says God formed us, and not only did he form us, but that we are wonderfully made. To

interrupt this process which begins with conception is wrong in the eyes of our Creator. Abortion is the holocaust of America, and we as Christians must protect the rights of the unborn.

In Exodus 1 and 2 it is clear that God uses people to mediate his care and protection for the newborn. The Scripture clearly states that God does not want any "of the little ones" to "perish" and that is his will. Abortion is an action that without a question violates this will of God.

So often we hear of the rights of women these days and of minority rights. In America we are slaughtering thousands of unborn children each day. Where are their rights? There are several steps that we as adults might take in order to teach our children the sanctity of human life.

1. We must influence our children in such a way that they see the high value that we place on life.

2. We must embrace Christian views in our own lives and must influence our young people with biblical teachings concerning the sanctity of life.

3. In doing this we must condemn abortion, and encourage alternatives to abortion, and we should participate constructively in protecting the helpless.

4. We can also encourage our churches to provide counseling for persons contemplating abortion, to minister to persons who have had abortions, and to minister to mothers and babies.

I am convinced that as Christians we must not only protect the unborn, but that we must provide the necessary ministry for those that

find themselves in situations such as these. What is the Christian stance on abortion? We must oppose in light of biblical teachings, and we must teach a blinded world that God is the

Creator of all beings, and that no man has the right to interfere with that process.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

## Names in the news

The Magnolia State Quartet will present a benefit concert at Anding Church, Benton, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. Joe Hill is pastor.

Zig Ziglar, motivational expert, will conduct a seminar entitled "Qualities of Success," Jan. 21, at the Jackson City Auditorium. The seminar, sponsored by Hinds Community College, will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$40 and all proceeds will go to HCC Development Foundation. Ziglar, a Yazoo City native, was formerly vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Clint M. Ashley, president of Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Alberta, has been elected director of Golden Gate Seminary's Northwest campus in Portland, Ore. Ashley, 52, has been president of the Canadian seminary since it opened in 1986. He begins his new duties Feb. 1.



Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission, was recently honored upon the occasion of his 10th anniversary as head of the Mississippi Baptist agency. Pictured with him is William P. Smith, chairman of the commission. Other speakers who paid tribute to Jones' years of leadership were Bill Causey, Sue Tatum, Clark Hensley, and W. W. Walley.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



## The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hope-fully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Dec. 1, 1991 -  
Dec. 31, 1991

### HONORS

Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Allen  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mrs. Nona Allen  
Alathea SS, Collins Baptist Church  
Rev. Ken Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Kemp  
Dr. William Ashford  
Mrs. Ouida Maxwell  
Leslie & Myles Atherton  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton  
Mrs. Virginia Atherton  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton  
Perry & Patsy Atherton  
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Mathis  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bailey  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Powell  
Maudye Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Bevil  
Mr. Tommy Bass  
Ann & Neal Berryhill  
Donna R. Blackburn  
Courtesy Motors, Inc.,  
Hattiesburg  
Mrs. Mildred Boyd  
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Holloway  
Don Branch  
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Jackson  
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Brent  
Mr. & Mrs. John Brown  
Dr. Charles Ozborn  
Mrs. Beverly Carr  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Child  
Mrs. Thelma Bradford  
Linda & Callie McIntosh  
La Vera Clark  
Friendship Class, Flora BC  
Lorene Cranage  
Mrs. Abel E. Keen  
Jarvis Cummings  
Mr. & Mrs. Delynn  
Cummings  
Mrs. J. W. Davis, Jr.  
Faith SS, Williamsville BC  
Ms. Sarah Elliott  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Brown  
III  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Fairburn  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton  
Fidelis SS, FBC Belzoni  
Mrs. Patricia C. Sudduth  
Steve Fitzgerald  
Fellowship SS, Ingomar BC  
James Foster  
Unity Bible Class, FBC  
Jackson  
Dr. & Mrs. Harry C. Frye, Jr.  
Ms. Paula Honea  
B. E. Gandy  
Wilmurth SS, Alta Woods BC  
Mr. Wallace Gandy  
Mr. & Mrs. Vance E. Windom  
Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gatlin  
Ms. Paula Honea  
Mrs. Dorothy Gilbert  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mrs. Dorothy Gillaspay  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Brown  
III  
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Gilliam  
Mr. & Mrs. W. W.  
Dannenberg  
Effie Jean Green  
Mrs. Katherine H. Evans  
Mr. Jimmy Hardy  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Harper  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Brown  
III

Jessie Harwell  
Easter SS, Poplar Springs  
Drive BC  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hastings  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Hawkins  
Ms. Mary Flynn  
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Heaton  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Peebles  
Mr. John Herring  
Dr. Charles Ozborn  
Mrs. Mary Hickman  
Ms. Eleanor Odum  
Arkin Upchurch  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hillhouse  
Dr. Charles Ozborn  
Miss Christine Hollis  
Mrs. Pattie M. Norris  
Mr. & Mrs. John Larry  
Holloway  
Ms. Allene Holloway  
Ms. Mildred M. Boyd  
Mrs. Allene Holloway  
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Holloway  
Cornellin Gerille Holyfield  
Mrs. Abel E. Keen  
Mr. & Mrs. Paige Howell  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Humes &  
Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred A. Humes  
Mr. & Mrs. George Humes &  
Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred A. Humes  
Mr. Richard Hurt  
Mrs. Thelma Bradford  
Linda & Callie McIntosh  
Mrs. Angie Jefcoat  
Mr. & Mrs. Hayden Herring  
Joy SS Class, FBC Columbia  
Mrs. Donnie Thornhill  
Mrs. Margaret Keeton  
Truth Seekers SS, FBC  
Grenada  
Mrs. Ruby Anne Kincade  
Faith SS, Oakhurst BC,  
Clarksdale  
Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Kirby  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Brent  
Mr. E. Aubert Knight  
Mrs. Retha Knight  
Mrs. Ollie Kyzar  
Friendship SS, FBC Rolling  
Fork  
Mrs. Carolyn Laird  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Brown  
III  
Mrs. Lillian Lee  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Brown  
III  
Mr. W. J. Liles, Jr.  
Ann & Neal Berryhill  
Mr. Fred Lindsey  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Martin  
Ms. Ammie B. Cupit  
Buddy & Judy Mathis  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton  
Ms. Carolyn McGuffee  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Dewey McKee  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T.  
Kendrick  
Mrs. W. G. Mize  
Golden Circle SS, FBC,  
Jackson  
Rev. & Mrs. Thomas A. Moak  
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Smith  
Dr. & Mrs. Thad Moore &  
Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mrs. Mattie Moore  
Ms. Eleanor Odum  
Arkin Upchurch  
Mr. B. C. Lee, Jr.  
Ann & Neal Berryhill  
Mr. Herbert Morgan  
Adult I SS, Hillcrest BC, New  
Albany

Mrs. Maude Barney  
Maude Barney SS, Galilee  
BC  
Mr. Rick Munn  
Joyful Noise Makers, FBC  
Grenada  
Mrs. Jackye Murray  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Myers  
Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell  
Mrs. JoAnn O'Donnell  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Foltz  
James & Cammie Owens  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Owens  
Mrs. Bessie Parish  
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Parish  
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Parker  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mr. Tommy Parker  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mrs. Fannie Peoples  
The Hasselman Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Otis Pierce  
Mr. Rudy Pierce  
Mr. Roger Prentiss  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Rankin  
Mrs. Orville Byrd  
Mr. & Mrs. Benny Ray  
Dr. Charles Ozborn  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Redd  
Honor & M. J. Ingram  
Bill & Blue Reeves  
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Reeves  
Ruby Richardson  
Mrs. Abel E. Keen  
Rev. & Mrs. Dan Robertson  
Mrs. Joan Short  
Clyde A. Robinson  
Mrs. Nona Shows  
Susan Evans Rushing  
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Wallace  
Mrs. Jerry Russell  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Salmon  
Mr. & Mrs. Dorphus Wilson  
Mrs. Net Sasser  
Ms. Evelyn L. Tomecko  
Bill & Louise Scott  
Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Horton  
Shrieve Chemical Company  
Mr. Ted McIntyre  
Mrs. Leslie Sibley  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Brown  
III  
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Mrs. Joseph H. Fulford  
Mr. Alton Smith  
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BC  
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Harmony SS, FBC McComb  
Mrs. William Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Sansing  
Rev. Louis Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Mikell  
Staff at FBC, Louisville  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W.  
Statham  
Staff, FBC Picayune  
Deacons, FBC Picayune  
Rev. & Mrs. William Stewart  
Dr. Charles Ozborn  
Bob Suggs  
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Miss Jessie Threlfall  
Mr. & Mrs. George T. Parish  
Rev. & Mrs. Dennis Trull  
Mrs. Mac Burchfield  
Mr. Cary Vaughn  
Ann & Neal Berryhill  
Dr. Phil Walker & Family  
Linda Truitt  
Mr. Charlie Walker, Sr.  
Baraca SS, FBC Greenwood

Michael Joseph Walley  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Kendrick  
& Holly  
Rev. & Mrs. Bobby Walton  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Hall  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Weiss  
Youth Maison Weiss Family  
Otho Wells  
Unity Bible Class, FBC  
Jackson  
Mrs. Carolyn White  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Brown  
III  
Mrs. Jane Wilkinson  
Dr. & Mrs. J. M. Brock Jr.  
Mrs. Mildred Witt  
Mrs. C. F. Hollingsworth  
Sue Woodall  
Elizabeth SS, North McComb  
BC  
Mrs. Glynn Wright  
TEL SS, FBC Charleston

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Mrs. Virginia E. Umstead  
Lamar Adams  
Ms. Inez R. McKinion  
Gene Adcock  
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Ellison  
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Mrs. Edith Aldridge  
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Coach James Q. Allen  
Dr. & Mrs. Bert Thompson  
Mr. W. C. "Pop" Allen  
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Mable Donald Allsup  
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Mr. Johnnie Anderson  
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Siloam Baptist Church  
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Baggett  
Mother of Wayne Baggett  
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& Family  
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Mrs. Lois Baggett  
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Mark Bailey  
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Mrs. Clayton E. Bain  
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Baldwin  
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Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Thomas J. Bogue  
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Mrs. Wilson B. Bourne  
Curtis Bowie  
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Mrs. Ella Bowlin  
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Hope BC  
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Camellia Boyd  
Mrs. Dot Griffin  
Mrs. Recie Boyd  
Mrs. Inez Hollis  
Keith Boydston  
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Mr. Boykin  
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Mr. & Mrs. Wyndell A.  
Varner  
Mr. Charles Brasher  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill C. Wilson  
C. E. & Maurice Breazeale  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Leshe  
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Mrs. Sam Fletcher  
Mrs. V. O. Powell  
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Mrs. Ruth H. Bright  
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Mr. & Mrs. David Denson  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Fisher  
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Ms. Rachel Hooper  
Mrs. Verna Lois Brown  
Mrs. V. O. Powell  
Mr. Wade Burns  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mr. Walter Butler  
Ms. Elizabeth Field  
Marie Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Rollins  
Mrs. Annie Mae Fisher  
Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Rowsey Jr.  
Mrs. B. H. Campbell  
Mrs. Virginia Van Cleve  
Mr. Albert S. Carl  
Ms. Louise W. Trewolla  
Edwin B. Carpenter  
Mrs. E. B. Carpenter  
Mr. Claude Carr  
Mrs. Marjorie Stamps  
Mr. Carter  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton  
May Case  
Rev. & Mrs. James A. Case  
Mrs. Lucy Cauthen  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion  
& Wendy  
Mother of Mr. Mark Chaney  
Mrs. Fannie Peoples  
Mrs. Maud James Chaney  
Mrs. Hazel T. Campbell  
Mr. Carol E. Channell  
Median Couples SS, Strong  
Hope BC  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Harrison  
Mr. Roy Chappell  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Maloney  
Mr. Ernest Chappell  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Womack  
William Gary Chittom  
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Pillow  
Mrs. Doris P. Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Britt  
Ferrell Cole  
Mrs. Maudie Clark  
Adult SS Old Pearl Valley BC  
Mrs. Zena Clark  
Mrs. Earl Gillon  
Eugene Clement  
Mrs. Phil Mahony  
Mr. Cleveland  
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Robison &  
Jodi  
Mrs. Mary C. Cleveland  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R.  
Ellison  
Mrs. Lucille Moore Cline  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter P.  
McMurchy  
Russell Clower  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
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Harry Hall SS, FBC  
Greenwood  
Mr. & Mrs. F. O. Alldread  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H.  
Coleman  
Jan Conn  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Powell  
Mrs. Gladys Conner  
Col. & Mrs. Robert W.  
McDonald  
Marianne Conrad  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy D. Hendricks  
Mother of Elizabeth Cooper  
Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper

Mrs. Nona Bell Everett Cooper  
Lydia SS, Springfield BC,  
Morton  
TEL SS, Springfield BC,  
Morton  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd E. Coil  
Mr. Si Corley  
Mr. & Mrs. Glade Woods  
Mr. Thomas J. Corley  
Mr. & Mrs. John L.  
Cheatham  
Ms. Jerrie S. Cheatham  
Mr. M. A. Courtney  
Sunrise SS, FBC Crystal  
Springs  
Tommy Courtney  
Mrs. Fannie Peoples  
Elizabeth G. Cox  
Mary Pratt SS, FBC Marks  
Mr. Ray D. Cox  
Mrs. Dimple W. Cox  
Mr. David M. Crawford  
Mrs. Amy Robertson  
Walter K. Crawford  
Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Joslin  
Mrs. Emma Crick  
Mrs. W. E. Campbell  
Dena Clardy & Dalma Crosby  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mrs. Lila Cupit  
Mr. & Mrs. L. K. Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Bagby  
Myrtis Cupit  
Ms. Ammie B. Cupit  
Mr. Ernest Currey, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Brown  
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Mr. Luther Curtis  
Mrs. June T. Brooks  
Mr. Joe Dakin  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Q. Davis  
Mrs. Hazel Dakin  
Mr. & Mrs. W. W.  
Dannenberg  
Mrs. Lera Walters  
Mrs. Joe Dakin  
Mr. W. D. Griffin  
Mrs. Oster (Marguerite)  
Daniels  
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Daniels  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter P.  
McMurchy  
Mrs. Jeannette Darnell  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice  
Granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs.  
J. Davis  
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Sr.  
Mr. Noel S. Davis  
Mrs. L. E. Green  
Ms. Dot Davis  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bonds  
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Mr. & Mrs. Horace Holmes  
Rev. Edgar Denick  
Dr. & Mrs. Philip Kuhn  
Mr. George DeReu  
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Ginn  
Mrs. Jesse Dewitt  
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Mrs. Bobbie Farrar  
Mrs. Lewis Dickerson  
Mrs. Marion C. Spell  
Gencye Reed King Dickert  
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Mrs. Katie Dulin  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kirk  
Ethel Dunn  
Graeber Brothers Inc.  
Wiley Dunson  
Stanton Baptist Church  
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Ms. Elizabeth Eckert  
Mary Royce Eckles  
Mrs. Brooksie Erskine  
Mrs. Betty Edgington  
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Sproat Jr.  
Aunt of Mrs. Charles Edwards  
Mrs. Spencer H. Barret  
Lillian & John A. Edwards  
Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge  
Mary Alice Elliott  
TEL SS, Springfield BC,  
Morton  
Mrs. Polly Elkins  
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter  
Karen Ellzey  
Tinsley Baptist Church  
Manchester Academy Class  
of 1980  
Mr. L. E. Ellzey  
Mrs. L. E. Ellzey  
Mr. Orion Estes  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Malone  
Amy Eubanks  
Mrs. Frances R. Lester  
Gladys Farish  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Ricketts &  
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Mrs. Bobbie Farrar  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
Mrs. Ruby A. Sherman  
Mrs. Leon W. Faust  
Mrs. Billy Frank Ferrell  
Madeline Ferguson  
Mrs. David C. Ashley  
Mr. George Fisher  
Mr. & Mrs. James Howard  
Ms. Betty Beck Tabor  
Son of Mrs. Vida Fleming  
Mrs. Vida L. Fleming  
Mr. Bernard Flowers  
Sidon Baptist Church  
Mr. Paul Forman  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Case  
Ray Fortenberry  
Mrs. Dimple & Tally  
Fortenberry  
Mr. Fortner  
Mr. & Mrs. Harris B. Peyton  
Mrs. Winifred Foy  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy T. Smith  
Buck Fullen  
Mrs. Gladys Frederick  
Gertrude Kathy & George  
Fulton  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Davis  
Mr. James Russel Fulton  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cade  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Stuart  
Mr. Ernest L. Garner, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Thompson  
Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. James L. Travis  
Mrs. Cola Garner  
Rev. & Mrs. Gerald Castilo  
Mr. & Mrs. R. R. Counts  
Mr. & Mrs. George A. Milam  
Judy Garrett  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Garrett  
Mrs. Leona Garrett  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kirk  
David Joseph Gass, Jr.  
Mrs. Lewis Wilkins  
Mr. Frank W. Gayden  
Mrs. Inez Hollis  
Mrs. Vearle Gee  
Mrs. Fred E. Kennedy  
Dr. & Mrs. Clyde A. Watkins  
C. S. Geeslin  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Geeslin  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Moore  
Mrs. Myrtis Gibson  
Mr. & Mrs. S. M. Dowdle  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Malone  
Mrs. Mae T. Gill  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Jones  
Mrs. L. E. Green  
Mrs. Mary Gilliam  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Fulgham  
Mrs. Pearl Golden  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Rogers  
Mrs. Laura Gilmore  
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Kelly  
Mr. Keith Ginn  
Mrs. Keith Ginn  
Miss Mary Godbold  
Mrs. R. C. Upton  
Mrs. Mary Godbold  
Mr. & Mrs. F. S. Kaiser Sr.  
Mrs. Lena Golden  
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Peeler  
Wendy Carol Goodman  
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Howard  
Mrs. Margie Goodnight  
Mary Pratt SS, FBC Marks  
James Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Blount  
Mary Grady  
Ms. Susie M. Barnett  
Mr. H. D. Graham  
Mrs. H. D. Graham  
Mrs. Mary R. Graham  
Ms. Mary Flynn  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Daniel  
Mrs. Clifford C. Aultman &  
Martha  
Gresham R. Grantham  
Ms. Peggy Howard  
Verna Lowe  
Dian Moore  
Mance Gray  
Mrs. Gladys Frederick  
Mr. Bobby Gray  
Dr. & Mrs. Carl Bozeman  
Mr. & Mrs. Neal Bozeman  
Mr. & Mrs. Herschell Gaddy  
Mrs. Mattie Greer  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Mangum  
Mr. Dick Grice  
Mr. Bobby Edmonson  
Miles Griffith  
Mrs. Lavelle Holloway  
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Holloway  
Mrs. Johnnie Bess Grubbs  
Mrs. Fred E. Kennedy

(To be continued)



## S'western faculty urges delay for seminary

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A statement calling on the faculty and administration of Baylor University to "delay your plans for the establishment of another Baptist seminary" has been issued by the faculty of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The statement, which was delivered by a delegation from Southwestern's faculty Jan. 6, assures officials at Baylor that, "The academic freedom we have traditionally enjoyed at Southwestern Seminary remains intact."

Southwestern Seminary was founded at Baylor University in 1908 and moved to Fort Worth in 1910. The seminary's ownership transferred from the Baptist General Convention of Texas to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1925.

Southwestern President Russell Dilday, a Baylor graduate, said the statement, which was approved by a vote of the faculty, represents a positive step on the part of the seminary's teachers in attempting to work together with Baylor. Dilday also said the statement is significant because 21 members of Southwestern's faculty hold degrees from Baylor.

William Tolar, vice president of academic affairs and provost at Southwestern, said the statement grew out of the seminary faculty's concern about the opening of the George W. Truett Seminary at Baylor.

"I love both of my alma maters and desire what is best for them," said Tolar, who holds two degrees from Baylor and taught at the school for 10

years before joining Southwestern's faculty.

"They are excellent academic institutions and serve unique purposes in the educational process of Baptists. I sincerely hope that we can continue to work together in a cooperative spirit of mutual respect and appreciation, rather than run the risk of moving into an adversarial and competitive mode," Tolar said.

"We wish you to know that the Southwestern faculty, staff, administration, and student body still represent mainstream Southern Baptist life in dedication to global missions, evangelism, and religious liberty. We remain committed to providing graduate level theological education, combined with functional skills, for effective ministry," the statement reads. "We view our relationship with our Baptist colleges and universities as collegial and complementary in the cause of Baptist higher education."

Dilday affirmed the faculty's statement about Southwestern's future and his own as president.

"Quality education is still available (in the SBC) at schools like Southwestern. Alternative programs are not necessary and would tend to dilute the support being given to our present seminaries," Dilday said.

"People have become so emotionally involved with the (SBC) controversy that it is hard for them to admit that good work can still be done in many of our institutions. They are conveniently overlooking the fact that Southwestern is in its best days," Dilday said.

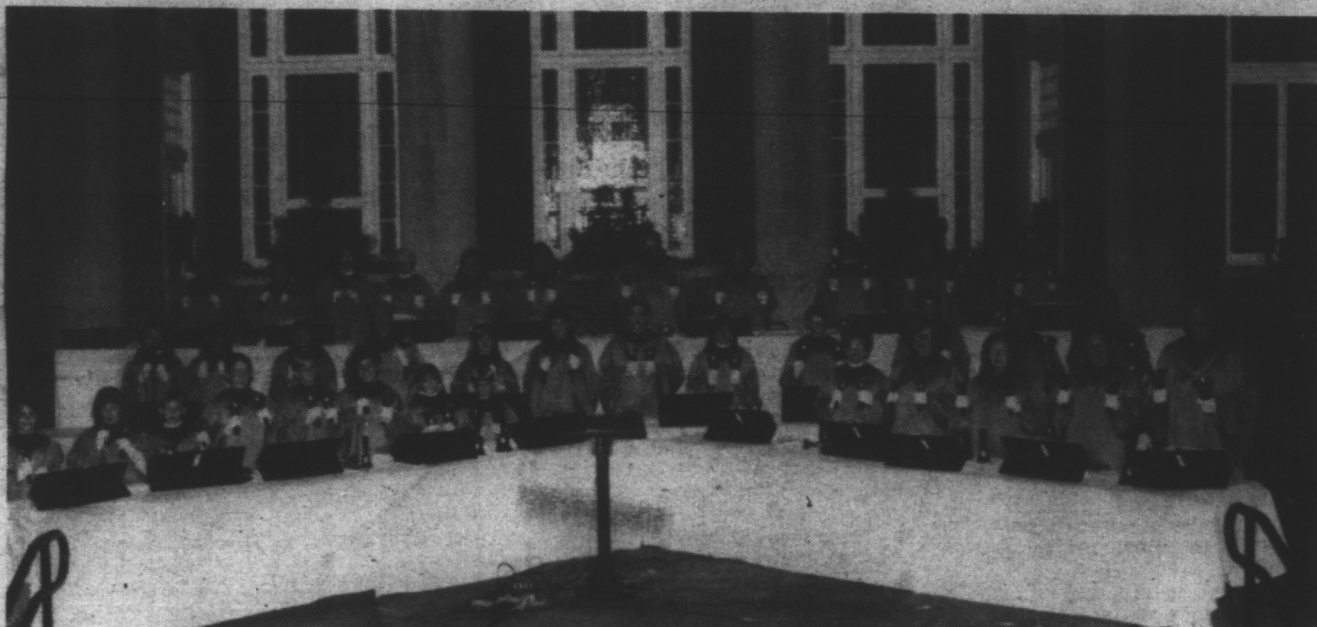
Collins writes for Southwestern



### Friendship children present "Rip Van Christmas"

"Rip Van Christmas" was the children's Christmas musical presented at Friendship Church, Grenada, where Guy Hughes

is pastor and Durell Young is minister of music and youth. (Photo submitted by Ann Clark. This is the winning photo in the Baptist Record Christmas photo contest).



### "Bells on the Lawn" ring at Clarksdale

The first annual presentation of "Bells on the Lawn" was held Dec. 8 at Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale. The program featured the handbell ministry of the Clarksdale Church. This ministry includes Jubilation I (Children), Jubilation II (Youth), Adult Handbells, PrimeChimers (Senior Adults), and TopGun (Allstar Choir).

Under direction of Hugh Plunkett, minister of music at Clarksdale Church, the program was viewed by some 400 peo-

ple who braved cold, wet weather to hear their favorite Christmas carols rung. Churches that contributed their bells to this program were Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale; First United Methodist Church, Clarksdale; and Williamsville Church, Kosciusko. Carl M. White is pastor of Clarksdale Church. (Submitted by Hugh Plunkett. Second place in BR Christmas photo contest.)



### "The miracle at the manger"

Dec. 15 brought "The Miracle At The Manger," a children and youth Christmas cantata, to the Lauderdale Association. The cantata was presented by the youth pictured above from Hebron Church, Meridian. Tommy Jones is pastor; Jerry Hooks is minister of music/youth.

### Lottie Moon goals met

Parkway Church, Kosciusko, set a church goal of \$2,500 for the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions. The amount received was \$2,789.36.

Providence Church, Hattiesburg, surpassed its Lottie Moon goal of \$7,500 by the end of December. The total amount given was \$7,542.82. A total of \$5,440.62 was given on special emphasis day of Dec. 8.

Life is like the looking glass that hangs upon your wall. It shows you short if you are short, or tall if you are tall. If you look in it frowning, a frown you'll see there, too; but if you look with friendly smile, it smiles right back at you! — Allen D. Mack

It is harder to be a good winner than a good loser . . . one has less practice.

## N.C. Baptists give directly to Ruschlikon

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP) — North Carolina became the first Southern Baptist state convention to allocate funds directly to the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, according to European Baptist Press Service.

EBPS said Ed Vick, second vice president of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, presented the seminary a check Dec. 21 for \$28,750, the first payment on \$30,000 promised to the international seminary by North Carolina Baptists at their annual meeting last November.

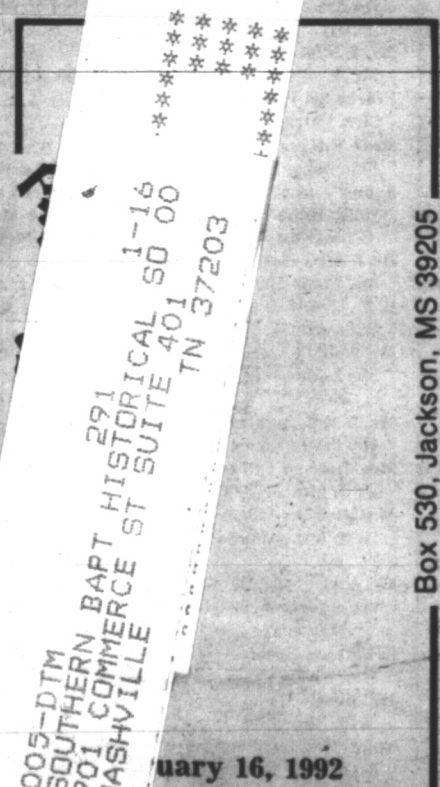
North Carolina Baptists, one of 10 state Baptist conventions to pass actions on the international seminary, approved two motions. One set aside the \$30,000. The other asked the Foreign Mission Board to rescind a 35-28 vote on Oct. 9 by its trustees to defund \$365,000 promised to the seminary's 1992 budget. On Dec. 11, the trustees voted 54-27 to take no further action on the seminary matter.

Meanwhile, Keith Parker, the FMB's area director for Europe, said in a letter to more than 290 missionaries in Europe that he has put a "temporary hold" on all missionary personnel requests for Europe after

February "so we can renegotiate with each (European Baptist) union about its desires."

Leaders of many of the 33 Baptists unions in the 750,000-member European Baptist Federation have expressed alarm over the defunding action and indicated it could rupture future relationships. Leaders of the Baptist Union of Romania, however, expressed

Many people know how to work hard; many others know how to play well; but the rarest talent in the world is the ability to introduce elements of playfulness into work, and to put some constructive labor into our leisure. — Sydney Harris



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